

THE North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

THE WEEKLY EDITION OF THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

VOL. LXXIII., No. 1951. SHANGHAI, DECEMBER 30, 1904. PRICE, Tls. 12 7/8 AN.

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The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, 30 DEC., 1904.

REFORM IN RUSSIA.

Six weeks ago to-day the "Spectator" drew attention in an article headed "Russian Rumours" to the unrest in Russia. After referring to the numerous reports of the commercial and industrial ruin already caused by the war, and the dangerous discontent among the reservists, as well as the unsatisfactory condition of the Russian finances, the "Spectator" comes to "the rumours, so numerous and so contradictory, of constitutional changes." Noting that the new Minister of the Interior is for Russia a Liberal, the "Spectator," with commendable prescience, considered it "extremely probable that he has been directed to submit a scheme of 'constitutional' reform by which it may be possible to unite the maintenance of the autocracy with a greater deference to general opinion. That is certainly the line which any Emperor of Russia desirous at once of maintaining his own power, and at the same time of conciliating the educated classes would pursue, and it is therefore quite possible that the rumoured plan though not accepted, or likely to be accepted till the difficulties have thickened a little, has really been discussed." The "Spectator" expected a plan to strengthen the Zemstva by the addition of a representative element, and by allowing them to appoint a Council of sixteen, who would be the supreme Council of the Empire. "It is not a scheme of representative government or of liberal government, or even of

scientific government as it is understood in Prussia; but it is a scheme which subject to the conditions we have mentioned would check the excesses of power, and perhaps furnish a basis for wider improvements." A real reform, the "Spectator" points out, must concede two prominent points; free speech, and the abolition of transportation by administrative decree without a trial. The grant of even a small measure of freedom depended, the "Spectator" says, on the course of the war. If things went well for Russia, the reform would be postponed; "but if they are adverse, the moderate reformers should, to judge from precedents in Austria, become unexpectedly powerful. It was defeat which gave Austria a working Constitution." Unfortunately for Russia, Nicholas II is far from being another Francis-Joseph.

The difficulties have thickened since the "Spectator" wrote, and the course of the war has not been favourable to Russia, and so the Czar did propose a few days ago a programme of reforms which filled the hearts of the moderate reformers with joy. But the joy was short-lived, for almost simultaneously, his Ministers, whom he had ordered to examine and report on his project, issued a *communiqué* dashing all the hopes that the Czar had raised, and declaring that the advocates of reform—of whom Nicholas II himself was supposed to be one—"are working for the benefit not of Russia but of her enemies." The glamour being thus rudely brushed off the Imperial decree, it was examined a little more critically, with the result that it is found to be "so worded that it is variously regarded as conceding much, and conceding nothing beyond vague promises," while there is no ambiguity about the ministerial *communiqué*. In fact, the irresolute Emperor may have a fit of liberalism, but he has reckoned without Pobiedonostseff and the five Grand Dukes, who keep the whip hand over the autocrat himself.

The great Reform Banquet in Pavloff Hall, which seems likely to be historical, was purposely held, we are told, on the anniversary of the Revolution of 1825. There is so much similarity in the situation then

and now, that a quotation from Mr. Geoffreg Drage's brief notice of that abortive *coup* must be interesting to our readers to-day:—

"The educated and enlightened minority had begun under Alexander I to form secret associations for the promotion of reform, but his unexpected death in 1825 put an end to the hopes of the friends of freedom. Nicholas I, who easily quelled the revolt of December 26th which ushered in his reign, was a man of despotic temperament, whose iron rule admitted of no will save one. His treatment of the Jews earned for him the title of "the second Haman;" in Poland the national aspirations which culminated in the rebellion of 1830 received a severe check. The constitution granted to Poland by Alexander I disappeared, the old Palatinates were transformed into Russian governments, the universities of Warsaw and Vilna were closed, and the insurgents were either hanged or sent to hard labour in the mines of Siberia. At home the Government became the absolute foe of all enlightenment, the innocent Russian universities were declared responsible for all the excesses which had accompanied the revolutionary movement in Western Europe, and even historical essays devoid of all political bearing were prohibited. Yet liberal tendencies were not eradicated from Russian society. Court circles took the tone of the Czar, but the educated middle class became more hostile than ever to the despotic policy of its rulers, and hatred towards the existing order of things increased. The Crimean War, which showed the rottenness of the machinery of administration, served to spread the belief that autocracy was crushing the life of the people." The second Nicholas is a man of very different character from the first; he does realise now and then that the safety-valve makes an uncomfortable and somewhat dangerous seat; but when he attempts to get off it, Mr. Pobyedonostseff and his uncles are promptly at hand to put him back again and tell him to be good and stay there till the explosion comes.

Summary of News.

THE German mail of the 22nd of November arrived here on Sunday, the 25th instant, per N.-D. L. S. Roon.

THE U. S. mail of the 2nd instant arrived here on Wednesday evening, the 28th instant, per str. Seydlitz.

THE French mail of the 26th ultimo is due here to-morrow morning, per M. M. S. Australien.

A MAIL leaves to-morrow for Europe by the N.-D. L. S. Seydlitz,

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE.

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS"
Service of Foreign and Local Telegrams.

THE WAR.

ADMIRAL KAMIMURA'S SQUADRON.

Tokio, 23rd December.

Two Japanese converted cruisers made their appearance at Singapore on Thursday at noon and left immediately.—*Our own correspondent.*

25th December.

A leading Tokio paper explains that the aim of the westward expedition of the Japanese men-of-war is to make an enquiry into the practice of neutrality, as the Baltic fleet has been violating the neutrality of the Powers en route.—*Our own correspondent.*

Later.

The papers designate this as the conclusion of the first stage of the naval warfare.—*Our own correspondent.*

26th December.

The papers to-day say that the first stage of the naval warfare is concluded, and the Japanese nation hopes to be able to express its personal thanks to Admiral Togo, and they assure him that they can guarantee him the sincerest welcome.—*Our own correspondent.*

THE DIANA REPORTED PREPARING.

Tokio, 23rd December.

A traveller who has arrived from Saigon reports that the Diana, as is reported of the Askold, is filling her bunkers with coal.—*Our own correspondent.*

THE NORTH SEA OUTRAGE.
COLLAPSE OF THE SUBORNED EVIDENCE.

London vii Bombay, 23rd December.

The Russian Consul states that it was only the boatswain of the Ava who signed the sworn statement (as to there being torpedo-boats among the trawlers), and he did not think he was drunk. The others made statements, but were afraid to sign them.

The boatswain of the Ava, on being interviewed, declared that he was drunk when he was taken to the Consulate.—*Reuter.*

THE COMING ARMADA.

Tokio, 23rd December.

A belief prevails in naval circles that the delay in the voyage of the

Baltic fleet shows that they are practising manœuvres en route to be ready for the actual fighting.—*Our own correspondent.*

London vii Bombay, 25th December.

The colliers Yeddo and Clayerley with ten thousand tons of coal for Mozambique have discharged their cargo at Port Said.

A German steamer is taking a part of this to an unknown destination.—*Reuter.*

Tokio, 27th December

The Tokio "Kokumin Shinbun" observes that whether the favour shown the Baltic fleet by the Neutral Powers are fortunate or one fortunate for Russia is problematical.

Now that the warships at Port Arthur are practically annihilated Admiral Togo is entirely free to, receive Admiral Rozhdiestvensky.

The papers freely allude to the Russian colliers being allowed to stay at Sabang in Sumatra.—*Our own correspondent.*

London, 28th December.

The Journal "Russ" of St Petersburg in an outspoken article says the time has passed for silence in regard to the state of the navy. The task imposed upon Admiral Rozhdiestvensky is a superhuman one. The vessels detailed for his reinforcement now at Cronstadt and Libau are dangerously defective.—*Exclusive service.*

A NOTABLE AUDIENCE.

Tokio, 23rd December.

General Count Katsura, the Premier, Field Marshal Marquis Yamagata, and Baron Komura, Minister of Foreign Affairs, were received in audience by the Emperor to-day.—*Our own correspondent.*

THE SIEGE OF PORT ARTHUR.

Tokio, 24th December.

Admiral Togo announces that since the capture of 203-metre hill, the enemy's men-of-war have been practically annihilated, only the Otavajny and a few destroyers surviving with difficulty.

He is now able to partially raise the blockade, while unrelaxing in his precautions against blockade-runners and the surviving vessels.

He pays a warm tribute to the co-operation of the military, and the indefatigable service of the picket stations.—*Our own correspondent.*

Later.

The Emperor, in a rescript issued yesterday, profoundly appreciates the consecutive and well-ordered torpedo attacks, and praises their display of perfect harmony and indomitable energy.—*Our own correspondent.*

Later.

A bombardment with heavy guns was kept up on Thursday on the north-eastern section of the defences.

Availing themselves of the damage done to the Russians, the Japanese occupied the ridge of Houyangshukou, near Pigeon Bay.

The Russians concentrated their fire from Taiyangkou and Yahutsui (to the west of the harbour) on the new Japanese position.

They also made a furious counter-attack, the men throwing grenades, but were repulsed.

The Russian firing subsequently abated and the Japanese occupation was nearly secured.

Meanwhile the Japanese bombardment with heavy guns resulted in the lower fort on Taiyangkou being set on fire, and a 15-centimetre gun was destroyed on Itzeshan.—*Our own correspondent.*

Later.

According to the statements of prisoners, Generals Kondrachenko and Ilman were killed, and General Fock wounded, in the attack on 203-metre hill.—*Our own correspondent.*

25th December.

It is officially announced that General Nogi's right wing at 10 p.m. on Saturday surprised Housanyantao and Siaofantsun, near Pigeon Bay, and, gradually dislodging the enemy, occupied the whole of Taliuchiutun on Sunday morning.

The whole of the Russian outstations have now been occupied as a consequence of the recent successful operations by the Japanese.—*Our own correspondent.*

* * Pigeon Bay has been the point from which the Russians have been receiving their supplies from junka during the latter period of the siege.—*Ed.*

26th December.

It is announced that seventy-four officers and bluejackets have been killed while engaged on special duty at Port Arthur, including Captain Nakayama and seven other officers.—*Our own correspondent.*

Later.

It is regarded as probable that the recent successes near Pigeon Bay will isolate Liaotishan.

It is believed that the Japanese right is continuing certain movements in that direction.—*Our own correspondent.*

Later.

Meanwhile, some big explosions are not impossible which will imply further progress in the operations for the reduction of Sungshushan and Ehrlungshan.—*Our own correspondent.*

London via Bombay, 27th December.

The latest Japanese successes at Port Arthur indicate that the Japanese are endeavouring to isolate the Liaotishan Promontory.—*Reuter.*

28th December.

Reliable intelligence has been received that General Kondrachenko has been killed, General Smirnof

broke his ribs and is in hospital, and General Stüssel fell from his horse wounded.

The Russians lost five thousand men on the 26th of November, but declare that they will fight to the bitter end. There are foodstuffs for the army until February, but the supply for the navy cannot last beyond January, and the prices of commodities are exorbitant.

The Sebastopol is lying beached, damaged in two places in the bows, and in two places in her rudder compartment.

The besieged are earnestly expecting relief in March next.—*Our own correspondent.*

Later.

Reliable news has been received that the operations at Ehrlungshan mentioned in my telegram of the 26th inst. have resulted in blowing up the parapet.

An assault was made this afternoon, and a furious engagement is continuing.—*Our own correspondent.*

NEWS FROM THE SHAHO.

Tokio, 24th December.

There were skirmishes on the line of the Shaho on Thursday and Friday in which the Russians were repulsed.—*Our own correspondent.*

ANOTHER BLOCKADE RUNNER AT SASEHO.

Tokio, 26th December.

The King Arthur arrived at Saseho yesterday.—*Our own correspondent.*

THE

JAPANESE WAR FUNDS.

Tokio, 26th December.

The consideration of the Japanese war taxes is virtually at a standstill in the Upper House, owing to a disagreement regarding the duty on textiles, which is, however, only a side issue.—*Our own correspondent.*

28th December.

The House of Peers has adopted the Budget and the War Taxes as passed by the House of Representatives.—*Our own correspondent.*

CONDITIONS IN COREA.

Tokio, 27th December.

The popular restlessness in Corea is unabated.

Japanese telegrams hint that under the circumstances, Japan will assist Corea in repressing the disturbances in the country, in deference to the defensive protocol.

General Hasegawa, the Japanese Commander-in-Chief in Corea, had an audience of the Emperor of Corea yesterday evening.—*Our own correspondent.*

ANOTHER PORT ARTHUR PICNIC.

London via Bombay, 27th December.

The steamer Manshu Maru, formerly the C. E. R. S. Manchuria, has left for Port Arthur with ten foreign

attachés and representatives of the Diet and of the Press on board.—*Reuter.*

PREPARING FOR THE SECOND CAMPAIGN.

London, 27th December.

It is proposed to give Marshal Oyama a total, roughly, of half-a-million men, with a heavy increase in artillery.—*Exclusive service.*

THE DEFENCE OF FORMOSA.

London, 27th December.

Provision is also being made for the defence of Formosa and the southern islands, in anticipation of the Baltic fleet attempting to seize them as a base.—*Exclusive service.*

ADDITIONS TO THE JAPANESE NAVY.

Tokio, 28th December.

It is announced in the papers that it is intimated that new units have been added to the navy.—*Our own correspondent.*

* * This perhaps refers to the five bmarines received from the United States that were recently fitting out at Yokosuka.—*Ed.*

THE DIET'S VACATION.

Tokio, 28th December.

The House of Peers takes a vacation until the 20th of January, and the House of Representatives until the 25th.—*Our own correspondent.*

THE ADMIRALS TAKE A HOLIDAY.

Tokio, 28th December.

The Presidents of the two Houses of the Diet on behalf of the members will welcome Admiral Togo on his arrival at Shimbashi station.

The House of Representatives has unanimously passed a resolution of cordial thanks to Admiral Togo.

Admiral Kamimura returns simultaneously with Admiral Togo.—*Our own correspondent.*

SARTORIAL REFORM IN THE ARMY.

Tokio, 28th December.

A change in the military uniform is mooted and will be gradually put in force.—*Our own correspondent.*

THE OPPOSITION IN ST. PETERSBURG TO THE WAR.

London via Bombay, 28th December.

A banquet at which one thousand people were present has been held in the Pavloff Hall, St. Petersburg, to protest against the war.

The day chosen (26th December) was the anniversary of the revolution of 1825.

The speakers declared that the restoration of peace is hopeless as

long as Russia has no constitution. They were vociferously applauded.—*Reuter.*

GENERAL NEWS.

THE SENTENCE ON THE HONGKONG MURDERERS.

Hongkong, 23rd December.

The three beachcombers, two Americans and one Finn, charged with drowning a sampan woman, with the intention of stealing her boat, have been sentenced to death. The jury recommended them to mercy.—*Our own correspondent.*

THE FOG IN ENGLAND.

London via Bombay, 23rd December.

There has been an almost unprecedented fog in England since yesterday, creating chaos, and paralyzing locomotion and business, particularly in London. The Christmas trade is at a standstill, involving enormous losses.—*Reuter.*

24th December.

The fog which has paralysed London for two days has lifted, but is still general throughout England, and all shipping is at a standstill.—*Reuter.*

London, 24th December.

The fog continues in the Lower Thames and in the Mersey, and many passenger vessels have now been fog-bound for five days.—*Exclusive service.*

THE REFORM MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA.

London, 23rd December.

The Moscow students have forwarded to the Rector of the University a resolution of refusal to attend lectures until after the Greek Christmas, 6th January N. S., swearing that they will do their utmost to promote a democratic organisation which will free their oppressed Fatherland, and render impossible brutalities such as were perpetrated on those who made the demonstrations of the 18th and 9th instant.—*Exclusive service.*

London, via Bombay, 27th December.

The Czar has issued a decree in which he declares that, in conjunction with the undeviating maintenance of the immutability of the fundamental laws of the Empire, it is the duty of the Government to meet any change in the needs of the people which is proved by the nature of events, even though it involves essential innovations in legislation.

His Majesty directs his Ministers to consider the means and possibility of introducing various administrative reforms, and report to him as soon as possible, but these are not to

involve any practical change in the system of government.

The proposals include bringing the laws affecting the peasantry into conformity with the general legislation; measures to ensure the application of the law to all alike; establishing legal responsibility for arbitrary acts; insuring the independence of the Courts, and the extension of the powers of local institutions, with measures to make them more representative: the revision of the exceptional laws against the enemies of public order, the introduction of which involved a grave extension of the discretionary powers of the administrative authorities; a revision of religious restrictions; a revision of the disabilities affecting the natives of certain territories; and a revision of the Press Laws, to enable the Press to fulfil its mission of worthily interpreting reasonable strivings for Russia's advantage.—*Reuter.*

28th December.

The St. Petersburg newspapers profess almost unqualified satisfaction with the Czar's decree, which the "Novoe Vremya" describes as a second enfranchisement of the peasants.—*Reuter.*

London, 28th December

A meeting of University professors and leading savants in Russia unanimously declared that no progress in science was possible without the establishment of a constitutional régime.—*Exclusive service.*

Later.

A Government communiqué declares that the reforms initiated by the Zemstva are alien to the Russian people which remains true to the old State organisation, hallowed by centuries. The authors of the reforms are working for the benefit not of Russia but of her enemies. The Government must oppose any anti-Governmental meeting. Servants of the State will be specially held responsible for any contraventions of the law in this respect. The communiqué also calls upon the Press to contribute to the tranquillisation of Society.—*Exclusive service.*

London via Bombay, 28th December.

A very excited meeting has been held of the Zemstva in the province of Moscow.

It caused demonstrations in the streets, where thousands unable to obtain admission to the meeting cheered noisily.—*Reuter.*

THE FOG IN FRANCE.

London, 24th December

Two express trains have been wrecked by collision in a fog outside Paris.

Hitherto five dead and twenty-three injured passengers have been extricated from the wreck.—*Exclusive service.*

THE TROUBLES IN MOROCCO.

London via Bombay, 24th December.

The situation in Morocco is causing uneasiness.

The unrest there is increasing, and it is feared that France will find it difficult to pursue her policy of peaceful penetration without a display of force.—*Reuter.*

RECALCITRANT

VENEZUELA.

London via Bombay, 26th December.

Venezuela has planted guns at La Guayra and Puerto Cabello.

It is supposed that this has been done in view of a strong intimation from Washington that she must mend her ways and discharge her obligations to foreigners.—*Reuter.*

THE DISTASTE FOR THE WAR IN RUSSIA.

London via Bombay, 26th December.

There was a revolutionary demonstration on the 25th inst. at Radom in Poland, where the mobilisation was in process. The demonstrators fired on the troops whose colonel was killed, and one demonstrator was killed.—*Reuter.*

* * Radom is the chief town of the government of the same name, directly south of Warsaw.—*Ed.*

SIR JOHN FISHER'S NAVAL REFORMS.

London via Bombay, 26th December.

Rear-Admiral William Henry May, M.V.O., a Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty and Controller of the Navy, has been appointed to the command of the Atlantic Fleet from March, with the rank of Vice-Admiral.

This is evidently the outcome of the scheme by which the present Channel Fleet is to be called the Atlantic Fleet, with its base at Gibraltar, and is to consist of eight battleships with a proportionate number of cruisers.—*Reuter.*

28th December.

It is reported that the idea of the establishment of a naval base in the Firth of Forth has been shelved, Sir John Fisher desiring to devote all available funds to the construction of new ships.—*Reuter.*

THE LOSS OF THE WORKFIELD.

Swatow, 28th December.

The steamer Workfield, on a voyage from Cardiff to Saseho with 6,000 tons of coal, via the Cape, struck an uncharted rock near Turtle Rock on the 24th inst. There are 29 survivors. The captain and crew took to the boats and landed in Hope Bay, and were taken to Swatow, and left yesterday for Hongkong.

The wreck is a danger to navigation.—*Our own correspondent.*

* Turtle Rock is a mile and a-quarter due south of Onpohi Point. There are a number of rocks between Turtle Rock and the Point, but the chart gives everywhere from 8 to 13 fathoms outside Turtle Rock.—Ed.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

Peking, 25th December.

Their Majesties granted audience this morning to the Grand Council, and to H. E. Tseng Kuang-ch'uan, Minister-designate to Corea.—*Special telegram.*

JAPANESE OFFICIAL REPORTS.

We have to thank the Consul-General for Japan for the following official telegrams:—

Tokio, 22nd December.

Admiral Togo reports on the 21st inst.—The Sebastopol was seen busily pumping water from a breach caused by the torpedo attack, but was listing at least ten degrees, with her bow sunk, and it is believed to be hopeless that she can recover navigability under the present circumstances of Port Arthur. According to the reliable statement of a prisoner, her netting was torpedoed eight times, while her hull was pierced at least once and split eight feet on the port quarter.

24th December.

The Port Arthur Army reports:—A detachment on the right occupied a hill east of Hoyangshukao; thereupon the enemy made a fierce counter-attack, but were repulsed and our occupation is now nearly assured. This hill is situate one mile and a half south of 203-metre hill. The bombardment by our heavy guns caused a great conflagration in the north fort of Haitayanghao.

25th December.

The Port Arthur Army reports:—At 10 p.m. of the 24th our right detachment attacked the enemy at Houshanyangtao village; and Shaofang village, and occupied the villages. Defeating the enemy we occupied whole part of Taliuchiatun at 2.15 a.m. next morning. Our successive attacks of the last few days were always successful and the outposts of the enemy in the direction of our right completely fell into our hands.

28th December.

The House of Peers to-day unanimously passed the war budget of 780 million yen and the ordinary budget voted by the House of Representatives on the 19th inst. (? 17th). It also passed without any amendment the bill for additional taxation and all other financial measures which had previously passed the House of Representatives.

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE
"OSTASIATISCHE LLOYD."

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

(Special Cable Service of "Der
Ostasiatische Lloyd.")

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

Berlin, 22nd December.

The "Svet" states that the journey of the Baltic Fleet would have been impossible without French assistance.

In Morocco serious resistance is growing against the policy of France tending towards a friendly intruding.

The Berlin National Bank has founded an Oriental Bank at Athens, with branches at Constantinople and Alexandria, the capital being ten million Marks.

The former Crown Princess of Saxony arrived this morning in Dresden, in order to see her children. But she was prevented from doing so, whereupon she left.

23rd December.

The Czar has received a petition, signed by six thousand distinguished citizens of St. Petersburg, wherein he is asked to grant a constitution.

Captain Franke, who relieved Windhuk and Okahandja, has arrived here and was received by the Chancellor.

King Alfonso of Spain has appointed H. M. the Kaiser honorary colonel of the cavalry regiment of Numancia and conferred upon him the rank of a Captain-General, which corresponds to that of a Fieldmarshal. Prince Carlos of Bourbon and Sicily, the King's brother-in-law, will bring the insignia of the new rank in January to Berlin.

24th December.

It is reported from Capetown that Samuel Maharero has fled to Bechuanaland and has asked permission to stay there. The magistrate of Ngamiland has received instructions to prevent the fugitives as far as possible from entering British territory, to disarm by all means those who entered his territory and to prevent their returning. Maharero and his associates will be allowed to stay under similar conditions in Bechuanaland.

Anti-Government demonstrations have taken place in the Agriculture Society at Moscow. The discussions were most exciting.

In a railway accident at Paris eight people were killed.

27th December.

According to Portuguese observations the Baltic Squadron was on the 6th instant in the Great Fish Bay (Mossamedes), where the ships were coaling from colliers, amongst which there were also British.

The Czar has sent to the Senate a long decree, which contains in eight articles the draft of reforms of the present order of things.

The Russian Government publishes an order against the Zemstvo movement and the growing liberal tendency.

NEWS FROM EAST ASIA.

Peking, 22nd December.

In consequence of the representations of the German, the British, the French, the Austrian-Hungarian, and the Italian Ministers, the Chinese Government has declared itself willing to take into kind consideration the proposals of the foreign Governments with regard to the amendments to the trade-mark law, and has bound itself not to make any registration of trade marks before an agreement has been arrived at.

The following telegrams are from the "Hongkong Daily Press":—

London, 20th December.

The New York "American" insists that it is true that England and Germany have proffered mediation between Russia and Japan. Russia is declared to be agreeable if Japan be willing to forego all claim to an indemnity.

Singapore, 20th December.

The Tanjong Pagar Dock Co., Ltd., has been notified by the Secretary of State that the Government intends to expropriate its property on terms to be mutually arranged.

London, 22nd December.

Admiral Ommanney (retired list) is dead.

[Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, K.C.B., F.R.S., was one of the most senior Admirals on the retired list of Flag-Officers. He was promoted to Captain in 1846; to Rear-Admiral in 1864; to Vice-Admiral in 1871; and to Admiral in 1877. He was born in 1814, seventh son of the late Sir F. M. Ommanney, M.P. He entered the navy at the age of twelve. He took part in the destruction of the Turkish and Egyptian Fleet at Navarino in 1827, by the combined fleets of England, France, and Russia, under Admiral Oodington. In this affair, more than thirty ships, many of them four-deckers, were blown up or burnt. He also served in the Arctic Expedition of 1850, when Commanders Collinson and M'Clure, in the Enterprise and Investigator, went in search of Sir John Franklin. During the war with Russia, in 1854-5, he commanded a naval force in the White Sea and the Gulf of Riga.—Ed. "H. D. P."]

The domestic situation in Russia is more serious than ever. The expected manifesto from the Czar has been postponed. Repressive action is anticipated. The activity of the censorship has been revived.

Singapore, 22nd December.

Two Japanese battleships, cleared for action, have been sighted bound west.

Later.

The Hongkong Maru and the Nippon Maru, employed as two cruiser scouts, have arrived here. They are preceding a Japanese fleet from Port Arthur, consisting of two battleships, two first and two second-class cruisers, and many torpedo-boats.

The Squadron stayed outside the harbour for two hours and proceeded west to meet the Baltic fleet.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

1904.				
	Fahr.	Thermometer.	Max.	Rainfall
	Min.			in inches.
Dec. 23	26.8	...	38.6	...
" 24	29.2	...	46.6	...
" 25	28.2	...	49.6	...
" 26	30.3	...	52.4	...
" 27	30.1	...	51.6	...
" 28	32.5	...	51.4	...
" 29	37.7	...	45.6	0.02

1903.				
	Fahr.	Thermometer.	Max.	Rainfall
	Min.			in inches.
Dec. 23	35.1	...	53.4	...
" 24	30.1	...	50.1	...
" 25	34.1	...	57.8	...
" 26	40.5	...	59.6	...
" 27	42.3	...	50.6	...
" 28	36.0	...	47.4	...
" 29	33.0	...	51.4	...

It is officially announced that the Chinese Government has agreed to postpone the enforcement of the new Trade-mark Regulations, until they have received farther consideration. This has been done on the advice of the Austrian, British, French, German, and Italian Ministers.

SIR HIRAM WILKINSON returned from Hankow on Monday. While there he heard the evidence in the suit of the Tung Dah and other native banks v. the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Ltd. The hearing commenced on the 15th inst. and evidence was taken daily until the 22nd inst. His Lordship then adjourned the further hearing to the Supreme Court in Shanghai, where counsel on both sides will sum up. Mr. Morgan Phillips appeared on behalf of

the plaintiffs and Mr. W. A. C. Platt conducted the defence.

Mrs. CONGER and Miss Campbell, after a brief halt at Shanghai, continued their tour on Wednesday, proceeding by the str. Columbia for Foochow.

H. M. S. Iphigenia, whose captain, officers, and men have made themselves so popular here during their four months' stay, left for Hongkong on Tuesday, and is relieved by the Sirius, Captain Moore. The Andromeda has left Woosung for Weihaiwei, and the Amphitrite has arrived there. The British squadron at Weihaiwei was to leave that port for Hongkong early this week, only the Andromeda remaining as guardship. The Andromeda took up with her the six Chinese cadets who have been admitted to serve on H. M. ships on this station. It may be noted that these future Admirals with one accord had their queues removed as soon as they received their foreign kit, with which they showed themselves much delighted.

A VERY black-edged notice received by us on Wednesday brought the sad news of the death of Mr. Louis Boscat, Procureur, Visiteur of the Lazarists, and Director of the Sisters of Charity in China. The funeral service took place at St. Joseph's Church at 8.30 a.m. yesterday.

THREE local pilots went down to Singapore by the English mail to meet the Baltic Fleet.

We understand that the str. Whampoa, late of the China Navigation Co.'s fleet, but recently disposed of, will, instead of proceeding northward, voyage southward to meet the Baltic Squadron.

REPORTS having appeared in some of our contemporaries that a large quantity of cartridges, supposed to be destined for Mukden, had been seized on the premises of Messrs. Liddell Bros. & Co. at Tientsin, we are requested by that firm to state that they are in no way connected with the reported seizure.

A NOTICE to Mariners announces the total loss of the steamer Workfield off the Cape of Good Hope, at the southern side of the entrance to the Swatow river. The Workfield was a steamer of 4,257 tons gross, and 350 nominal horse-power, built at Stockton in 1901. Her managing owner was Mr. W. R. Rea, and she belonged to Belfast.

THE third and final performance of "My Soldier Boy" did not attract so large an audience as on the former occasions. Applause, however, was unstinted and the performers fully deserved the clapping they received.

THE first concert of the "Fortnightly Series" of entertainments and lectures was held in the Church Room, Cathedral Compound, on Tuesday, and was a great success. The large room was well filled and the varied programme which was presented was much appreciated, as was evidenced by the loud applause with which each item was rewarded. During the interval between the first and second parts of the programme refreshments were handed round by the male portion of the audience. In the unavoidable absence through indisposition of Mr. B. G. Tours, the Rev. A. J. Walker took the chair, and the manner in which he performed his duties was in no small measure responsible for the enjoyable evening spent. A fuller report will be found in another column.

THE Christmas entertainment at the German School last Friday afternoon was a very pretty function, enjoyed alike by the children taking part and their parents

and friends who attended in large number. "Father Christmas" was the guest of the afternoon, and he was charmed into his most benevolent mood by some capital singing by the scholars.

DURING the present month the Dallas Opera and Musical Comedy Company has been playing to excellent houses in Calcutta. Mr. Dallas has brought out a strong combination, and the new repertoire includes, amongst other musical comedies, "The Girl from Kay's," "The Orchid," "The School Girl," and "The Country Girl." Of the artistes who previously visited Shanghai, Misses Violet Frampton, Bertha Hunter, and Alice Wade, and Messrs W. F. Vallance and Frank Cochrane are still with the company, and a number of London and Australian artistes complete the combination. The Calcutta season was to conclude on the 29th instant, and from thence the Company will make its way through Bombay, Rangoon, Singapore, and Hongkong to Shanghai. We regret to hear that Miss Ernestine Walters has been in hospital for some months and there seems little likelihood that she will again tread the boards for some time to come.

THE Mihholoongs were at home as usual to their friends at 11 a.m. on Christmas day and there was much quaffing to accompany the wishing of the compliments of the season.

THE Committee of the Charity Bazaar in aid of the funds of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul ask us to convey their warmest thanks to the Municipal Council, the Consular Body, the Admiral and the Officers of the Russian cruiser Askold for their help; to the Press for their kind co-operation and notices; to the various corporations, firms, stores, and hotels for their handsome contributions; to the Chinese bankers, merchants, compradores and others for their donations; to the general public for their donations and support; and to the ladies and gentlemen for services rendered at the various stalls.

ALTHOUGH held in the large Drill Hall, the meeting of Chinese gentlemen against footbinding on Saturday, Christmas Eve, appeared both well and influentially attended. Dr. Barchet presided during the first part of the afternoon, being relieved later on by Mr. Shen Tun-ho, Director of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, as also prime mover in the Chinese Red Cross Society, on the lines of which he hoped a really influential Chinese anti-footbinding Society would now be formed. Dr. Gilbert Reid translated admirably for Mrs. Archibald Little, whose speech was evidently listened to with the greatest interest. There were two other Chinese speakers. Röntgen ray photographs of bound feet were passed round, and all who attended supplied themselves liberally with specimens of the Society's texts against binding. There was quite a crowd for long after the meeting broke up round the book that had been prepared for gentlemen to inscribe their names as wishing to join the Tien Tsu Hui or Anti-Footbinding Society. At first ladies were refused admittance but after Mrs. Little and Mrs. Cornfoot had taken their seats as officers of the Society, it seemed impossible to refuse admission to the groups of Chinese girl students, who kept arriving, and at the conclusion of the meeting a request was preferred by the audience that there might be another meeting held in the same hall on Sunday, the 8th prox., and that on that occasion a portion of the Hall might be reserved for Chinese

ladies, as so many had expressed the wish to attend. It was therefore decided to ask the Municipal Council if it would be convenient to them once more to grant the use of the Hall.

THE working of the forty Municipalities in Burma during the year 1903-4 appears to have been quietly successful along lines which are become well-established. The annual report, just published by the Government, shows steady development almost everywhere, but no very startling changes. The attendance of some of the Government ex-officio members has been noted as irregular and steps are being taken in the matter. Exclusive of debt accounts the aggregate income amounted to Rs. 25,36,305 as compared with Rs. 24,85,738 in 1902-03, and the ordinary expenditure to Rs. 33,31,867 as against Rs. 29,27,237 in the previous year. The expansion of expenditure is mainly accounted for by the rebuilding of the Mandalay bazaar, the cost of which has been met by raising a loan. The total closing balance was Rs. 9,99,222, the opening balance being Rs. 7,09,470.

WITH reference to the remarks of a correspondent, complaining of his electric light, it may be fairly pointed out that failures in the light have been very rare, and have been due to accidents to boilers, etc., which occur from time to time in all works employing steam. As regards the cost of the light as compared with gas, that is the consumer's business. As to the meter testing, we are informed that if a consumer wants his meter tested, it is done free of charge the first time; on subsequent occasions, he is charged a fee of Tls. 5 if his meter turns out to be right, and nothing if it is wrong. This is a perfectly fair arrangement.

MESSRS. ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co. courteously inform us that they received last Friday a telegram from London, according to which the Shell Transport and Trading Co., Ltd., has declared an interim dividend of 1/- (one shilling) per share.

We note with pleasure that the leading Russian newspapers continue to give their readers extracts from our columns. We note that we have been quoted lately in the "Moskowski Wiedomosti," the "Petersbourgskaya Listok," the "Journal de St. Petersburg," and the "Petersbourgskaya Gazeta." They know that while our sympathies are with Japan in the present war, they are also most strongly with the enlightened element in Russia that is struggling for the political freedom that every other civilised nation, including Japan, enjoys, and prospers accordingly.

THE story of the Calchas, which will be found in this issue, is extremely interesting. The report of the damage done by Admiral Kamimura to the Vladivostok cruisers shows that, as was the case with the Russian vessels in their sortie from Port Arthur on the 10th of August, they received the greatest damage while they were escaping, their injuries being mainly aft.

We are informed that the C. N. S. Whampoa has been sold, and she will perhaps ultimately be heard of at Saselo.

At the British Police Court on Monday, Benjamin Cohen, stoker of H. M. S. Iphigenia, and John Poole, quartermaster of the Malta, were charged with being drunk and disorderly in Scott Road at 1.15 a.m. on the 26th inst. and also with assaulting the police, viz., Indian P. C. 98 and native P. C.'s 280, 284, and 562, whilst in the execution of

their duty, and damaging their uniforms to the extent of \$6.50. Inspector Bourke asked for a remand, as he had a similar charge against a Japanese subject. Accused were remanded until next day in their own recognisances of \$50 each. A Japanese named Ema Rivaburo was brought before the Japanese magistrate on an identical charge. He also was remanded until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, when he was examined in Japanese and the constables gave the same evidence as that which they had given at the British Court. Accused was sentenced to three days' imprisonment and advised not to interfere with the police in future.

At the Mixed Court on Wednesday morning, two natives were brought up on a charge of being associates and members of the gang of the notorious Vah Kahder. Mr. G. D. Musso had been instructed for the defence. The charges were not gone into, as Inspector Matheson applied for a remand until the return of the British Assessor, Mr. B. Twyman. Mr. Musso applied for the release of the prisoners upon bail, but his application was refused.

H. M. CRUISER Sirius and torpedo-boat-destroyers Hart and Janus arrived here from Weihaiwei on Wednesday. The Janus and Hart came up to the Senior Naval Buoy early in the afternoon to take in coal, and later in the day the Sirius came up to the Naval Buoy, the torpedo-boat-destroyers moving to the P. and O. Buoy, whence they will proceed to Hongkong, accompanied from Woosung by H. M. S. Iphigenia.

THE U. S. Monitor Monadnock, which has been recalled from the River, is preparing to proceed to Cavite.

THE Japanese cruisers that have called at Singapore have no doubt gone to look after some of the colliers that are waiting about Pulo Wey to supply the Baltic fleet when, if ever, it comes.

THE M. M. S. Australien, with the French mails of the 27th ultimo, left Hongkong for Shanghai on Wednesday, at 5 p.m.

THE P. and O. S. Coromandel, with the London mail of the 2nd inst., left Singapore at noon on Sunday the 25th inst., for Shanghai.

THE R. M. S. Empress of India left Vancouver on Monday afternoon, the 26th inst.

THE P. M. S. Korea, with the U. S. mail of the 2nd instant, left Nagasaki for Hongkong on the 27th instant. The passengers for Shanghai were transferred at Nagasaki to the N.-D.L.S. Seydlitz, and arrived here on Wednesday evening.

THE Austrian Lloyd str. China left Hongkong on Tuesday, the 27th inst.

THE R. M. S. Empress of Japan left Yokohama for Vancouver on Friday afternoon, the 23rd instant.

THE str. Hindustan arrived home on the 22nd instant.

THE str. Somali and Prinz Regent Luitpold arrived home on the 26th inst.

THE str. Machaon and Slavonia passed the Suez Canal homewards on the 22nd instant.

THE str. Albenga and Jason passed the Suez Canal homewards on the 26th inst.

THE str. Radnorshire and Heathburn passed the Suez Canal outwards on the 22nd instant.

THE str. Baralong, Benvoirlich, Formosa, and Zieten passed the Suez Canal outwards on the 26th instant.

THE str. Sishan left Woosung last Friday.

THE C. M. S. Anping, which arrived here last Friday from Chefoo, reports strong N. and N. N. W. gales and heavy snowstorms from the Promontory. Off the N. E. Promontory, she saw a British man-of-war and a torpedo-boat.

THE C. M. S. Feiching, which arrived here on Thursday, the 32nd instant, from Hongkong, reports: Passed a junk, bottom upwards, bearing N. by E. from Kiutoan High Beacon about two miles. On the same subject, the C. N. S. Whampoa, which also arrived here from Hongkong on Thursday, reports: At 10 a.m. on the 22nd instant, off S. E. Knoll Buoy, stopped to rescue two men off the bottom of a capsized junk. A strong N. E. gale was blowing at the time, and the men were almost frozen to death. They had to be pulled aboard with lines. The junk capsized at 2.30 in the morning and one man was drowned.

THE C. M. S. Kwangtah, which arrived here on the 24th inst. from Hongkong reports that she was hailed by a Japanese man-of-war off Heashan Island in Lat. 28° 57' N. and Long. 122° 04' E.

VESSELS arrived here from River ports on Monday report: The German gunboat Tiger at Hankow, H. M. S. Snipe and the German gunboat Ilitis at Kiukiang, and the U. S. gunboat Elcano at Nanking.

THE C. N. S. str. Hoihow, which arrived here on Monday from Swatow, reports:—Sighted a three-funnelled Japanese cruiser steering in no particular direction off Samsah inlet, near river Min. She hoisted a three-flax signal, but we were unable to distinguish it.

THE Dutch str. Wilhelmina arrived here from Vladivostok on Saturday. She has little to report, except that the harbour at the latter port is still kept open by the use of ice-breakers. The Wilhelmina arrived at Vladivostok in November with a cargo of coal from Barry.

As the O. S. K. S. Talee Maru, from Hankow, was coming up the river on the flood tide on Saturday, she collided with H. M. S. Iphigenia, her quarter striking the mooring chain of the cruiser. Fortunately she did not strike amidships, and apparently only her guard was scraped, while the only damage to the cruiser was a general shaking from the sudden impact.

WE have received another big number, being the 13th, of "La Verité sur le Congo" published at Brussels, in three languages, in which nearly forty pages are devoted to the confusion of Mr. Morel's new book, "King Leopold's Rule in Africa." There is so much whiteness and so much blackness about this "Rule," that it would seem that it must at any rate be rather grey.

THE fourth number of "Cherry Blossoms" the little monthly magazine issued by the "Nagasaki Press," is quite up to its predecessors in interest. A particularly interesting paper is that on pages 9 and 10, "The New Japan."

THE world is constantly being told that it has long-felt wants that somebody is prepared to fill; often the world turns a deaf ear to such assurances; but occasionally it recognises the existence of the want and is grateful to the man who fills it. One of these rare occasions is brought prominently to our notice by the receipt from Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., the publishers, of a hand-

book for travellers and residents in these Settlements, entitled "Shanghai," by the Rev. C. E. Darwent. It is a convenient small octavo in size, and is well-printed and bound in cloth in London. There is an excellent map and there are 64 illustrations from photographs. The name of the author is a guarantee for the style being thoroughly readable; dryness and Darwent cannot coexist, and the book reads like a pleasant companion talking to the reader. It is a history as well as a guide, and will be an authority on disputed points in the story of Shanghai; while, as far as we have noticed, it is carefully accurate in details.

THERE will be a record demand for the Christmas number of the "Bund," of which an advance copy has reached us. Certainly nothing more ambitious of its class has been attempted in Shanghai, and the success with which it has been carried out reflects the utmost credit on editor and printer alike. The illustrations are excellent, several, including that on the cover, being in colours. "Polly" is a charming 'young lady,' and is made the subject of a pretty story, which the Rev. Laurence Sterne would have told with fine relish. "The Good Old Game," another full page picture, speaks for itself, if indeed it is not a subject in regard to which words are superfluous. The angel of peace and the sleeping lion on the cover keep watch over some pretty Christmassy verses by the Editor. Of the smaller illustrations, many are photographic reminders of incidents of the year in Shanghai, and they are very clearly reproduced. The photographs of "Old Heidelberg," and of the Lilliputians, of race finishes, of scenes on the cricket ground, on the river, and in the city, will all be appreciated. The reading matter is equally acceptable. Sport, art, music, and current topics are dealt with by writers specially qualified; there are several short stories, and a graceful dance "Cymbeline," specially composed by Mr. L. H. Drakeford. The advertisements, are an interesting feature in themselves and we can only congratulate all concerned once again on a really wonderful production.

WE have received two interesting pamphlets concerning the incorporated Thames Nautical Training College, better known all over the world as "H. M. S. Worcester," the school which has turned out so many British officers of marine. A full account of the college, with photographic illustrations, routine and dietary tables, records of interesting events in its history, etc., is contained in one of the pamphlets, while the other records at length the proceedings at the distribution of prizes last year by T. R. H. the Prince and Princess of Wales.

WITH pencil-laugh and paragraphs and topics of the day, the "Eastern Sketch," amusing wretch, pursues its weekly way, "H. H." and "L." who draw so well, are helped by Mr. Prior, and full success their work must bless if all buy who admire.

THE "Chefoo Daily News" of the 20th prints the following account of the late Dr. King, received from Dr. Hunter Corbett at Taokou:—

George King, M. B., came to China as a missionary in connection with the China Inland Mission in 1875. He was then under twenty years of age. He remained in China eighteen years, then returning to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he took a full medical course, graduation

with honours. A position of honour, and one highly valued, was offered to the most successful contestant in a competitive examination. Doctor King won it, but yielded it to another in order to return to China and continue his missionary work.

He was in Chefoo at the time of the death of the late Doctor Douthwaite, and continued in charge of the medical work of the China Inland Mission at Chefoo until the spring of 1903 when he went to Honan as interpreter to the syndicate operating the mines, etc. His wife and two children have been living for some time in Edinburgh, where the children have both distinguished themselves in college.

Doctor King was a man of superior gifts, and his early death will leave a gap difficult to fill. The telegram received Sunday has brought sorrow to many hearts.

We have received the "Chefoo Daily News" to the 23rd inst.—It is reported that another Japanese cruiser has struck a mine off Port Arthur and gone down. The northerly winds carry away the mines laid at the entrance of the harbour and they are a constant menace to the blockading squadron, especially at night.—Captain Barnes, of the First Chinese Regiment, is engaged to be married to Miss M. A. Weatherston, of Chefoo.

We have received Japan papers with dates from Tokio and Yokohama to the 17th, Kobe the 18th, and Nagasaki the 20th inst.—Lieut.-General Tsuchiya and Major-General Nakamura, who were seriously wounded in the attack on 203-metre hill, are progressing favourably.—The British Red Cross Society has sent Sir Claude MacDonald by telegraph a sum of £5,000 for the Japanese sick and wounded, in addition to the £2,000 previously sent.—The "Jiji" suggests that Russia is hoping that Admiral Rozhdiestvensky will be found responsible for the North Sea outrage, to give a pretext for the recall of the Baltic squadron.—Mr. Takahira, Japanese Minister to the U. S., has completely recovered.—There is no doubt that the Japanese have got big guns at the top of 203-metre hill.—There has been an unprecedented snowfall at Tokio and in the surrounding country.—Prince Fushimi's jewellery, stolen at St. Louis, was recovered by the police the next day, but the thief escaped.—The U. S. K. made a net profit of ¥1,052,681 in the five months ending the 30th ult.

The "Japan Daily Mail" of the 17th inst. says:—

An officer who has just returned from Port Arthur—he reached Moji on the 15th—says that the Russians are concentrated at Erhlungshan, where they seem to contemplate a final struggle. There is really very little left for Port Arthur to accomplish as a fortress. Except that by holding out it keeps a large part of the Japanese army engaged, it has ceased to be of any vital importance now that the squadron it sheltered is destroyed. The seizure of High Hill has proved indeed a decisive coup.

The "Kobe Chronicle" says:—

From one who was present we learn that the reception given at Nagasaki to the Captain and officers of the N.-D. L. S. Willehad, which brought the Japanese refugees to Japan, was a most interesting function. Only the leaders of the refugees took part in it, together with some members of the Japanese Legation at Berlin returning to Japan, and a few Japanese who had joined the travellers

at Bremerhaven, the ceremony being primarily intended as a means of expressing thanks to the German authorities and the steamship company for the kindness that had been shown to the refugees. Governor Arakawa himself gave expression to the gratitude felt at the kind treatment the refugees received in Germany, and especially on the part of the Norddeutscher Lloyd and the Captain and officials of the "Willehad." It may be interesting to mention that one of the refugees, in describing their hardships in Siberia, remarked that they ended as soon as they had crossed the German frontier. In reply, Captain Zurbonsen thanked the Governor for his kind words, and remarked that during the whole voyage the conduct of the Japanese was exemplary, for throughout his long experience as a seaman he had not conveyed a body of passengers who had behaved with greater quietness and decorum.

The "Kobe Chronicle" has the following American telegram, dated London, the 22nd ult.:—

Keen frost and heavy snow squalls are reported from all parts of the United Kingdom. A gale raged all night long over the coasts, driving vessels to shelter and seriously dislocating the telegraph wires, especially in the North of England and in Scotland. Blinding snowstorms are causing deep drifts, rendering traffic difficult in the country districts and necessitating a cessation of outdoor work in many of the provincial towns.

In London little snow has fallen, but a sharp fall in the temperature is accentuating the distress among the poor, which is already prevalent. The snow is so deep at Chatsworth that the King of Portugal and others of the house party there have been prevented from shooting. Some small craft have been wrecked. Up to the present November had been unusually mild and the sudden change is causing much misery. Wintry weather seems general in Europe, frost being reported as far south as Naples.

In Westmoreland the unusual sight was seen of trains stuck in snow drifts and blocking communication on the North-Eastern Railway. The race meeting at Warwick had to be postponed, as the track was deeply covered with snow. The land lines in Ireland are affected, causing delay in communication with America.

The lifeboats are busy, but the most serious wreck that is reported is that of the British steamer Indiana, from the River Plate, via Madeira, which was driven ashore on the rocks near Sunderland. The life-savers took off the crew.

A few fatalities have occurred as the result of wrecks of small or ft.

The following is from the Nagasaki Press:—

Paris, 11th November.

The "New York Herald" (Paris Edition) states that the wife of the captain of the Russian cruiser Aurora, which is a vessel of the Baltic Fleet, has received a letter from her husband which goes far to explain the unfortunate occurrence near the Dogger Bank.

According to this document, both the Aurora and the second-class cruiser Isumrud suffered considerable damage from the fire of a number of the other vessels of the squadron. Both vessels were very much out of their course, and the signals made to them under the new code from the Admiral's flagship were misunderstood, with the result

that they unwittingly moved in various directions in a manner, that would have seemed extremely suspicious as seen from the remainder of the squadron—the more so as they were sailing without lights.

This, says the "New York Herald," would explain the statements of the Russian officers that they saw two vessels without lights moving rapidly and appearing to manoeuvre suspiciously. But, the writer adds, the constantly expressed theory that they were strange torpedo-boats cannot hold good in the face of this statement. Another explanation is therefore necessary.

We have received Hongkong papers to the 23rd inst.—Mr. H. Chubb, for many years Secretary of the Bank of England, has left £500 to the China Inland Mission.—The Lilliputians were to open in Hongkong on Christmas Eve.—H. M. S. Hogue is bringing out a crew for the Widgeon, which Lieut. and Commander Metcalfe, of the Kinsha, is to take up to Chungking; and the Sutlej, which relieves the Leviathan, is the first cruiser under the new two-year commission system.—H. M. S. Albion sighted and exploded a mine off the Shantung Promontory while on her way from Weihaiwei to Hongkong.—The net personality of the late Mr. E. Mackintosh, of John Swire and Sons and Butterfield and Swire, has been sworn at £257,154.—The Hongkong Y. M. C. A. is actually going to play a football match on New Year's Day, which is Sunday.—The four lionesses belonging to Harmsen's Circus died from want of air while being taken in a lighter from the steamer Tean to the shore at Manila. The lion was saved by his cage being promptly opened.—The following steamer sales are reported:—the Booth liner Sobralense, 1,232 tons net, built at Barrow in 1884, to Hongkong Chinese; the N.-D. L. S. Medan, of Bremen, 476 tons net, built at Copenhagen in 1899, to the H.-A. L. for about £11,250, for the Chemulpo trade; the P. & O. S. Ballarat, 2,860 ton net, built at Greenock in 1882, to an Italian firm, for £9,600; and the N. D. L. S. Kudat, ex Hecuba, 590 tons net, built at Greenock in 1882, to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire.—The sailing vessel Evie G. Ray, bought by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire to be used as a hulk at Cebu, was being towed thither by the Sungkiang when she leaked so badly that she had to be brought back to Hongkong, where she was repaired. The property of the Tebrau Planting Co., Ltd., has been sold for \$50,000.—Everything is going on smoothly with the small British garrison left at Gyantse.—The trial of the three men who murdered two members of a sampan family in Hongkong harbour was begun on the 22nd and adjourned until the following day.

The Bureau Veritas Monthly List, published on the 1st of November, of wrecks and casualties recorded in September last, announces that 64 sailing vessels were reported as totally lost; 28 by stranding, 3 by collision, 7 by fire; while 9 foundered, 4 were abandoned, 10 were condemned, and 3 were missing. No less than 154 sailing vessels were damaged, 46 by stranding, 39 by collision, 3 by fire, 21 by leaks, and 45 by stress of weather. The steamers totally lost were 28; 7 by stranding, 3 by collision; while 5 foundered, 12 were condemned, and 1 was missing. The steamers damaged were 264; 85 by stranding, 80 by collision, 17 by fire, 6 by leaks, 17 by stress of weather; while 59 reported injury to their engines or boilers.

Miscellaneous Articles.

THE
FOREIGN OFFICE
AND SHANGHAI.

27th December.

THERE was evidently a deeper meaning than is apparent at first in Mr. Byron Brenan's remark at the recent China Dinner with reference to the relations between the China Association and the Foreign Office; "Even if we cease to keep the Foreign Office straight with our advice, and if our hand is no longer to be seen in the policy pursued by H. M. Government, I think the Association has justified its existence, &c." It was in very tepid terms, too, that he spoke of the guest who represented the wayward institution over which Lord Lansdowne presides: "We have also Mr. Langley, of the Foreign Office, who is always willing to lend a sympathetic ear to the wants of the British Community in China." If Mr. Brenan knew at the time or suspected the unhappy changes contained in the new "China and Corea Order in Council 1904," which superseded the order of 1865 and the subsequent amending orders, we can understand the tone of his speech. It will be hardly be believed, but it is nevertheless the case, that the new Order abolishes the post of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of China and Corea, and Sir Hiram Wilkinson's successor is only to be a Judge. The establishment of the Supreme Court here in 1865 was one of the wisest steps the British Government could take. The judicial work, by the growth of Shanghai, had become much too heavy for it to remain a portion of the Consul-General's duties, and the Court has been a conspicuous success. The advantage of having a trained lawyer, a lawyer who has practised at the Bar before being raised to the Bench, has been so evident, that Germany and the United States are now contemplating following our example. The Court has indeed not escaped the tinkering hand of the Foreign Office in the past. In 1891, the posts of Chief Justice and Consul-General were re-combined in the person of the late Sir Nicholas Hannen; but ably as Sir Nicholas filled both posts, it was again found to be an undesirable combination, and on his lamented death, the separation of the offices was reverted to, and we have been fortunate in having them so thoroughly well filled as they have been by Sir Hiram Wilkinson and Sir Pelham Warren. The Supreme Court here has not only been a conspicuous benefit to

British residents in China, but it has been an object of admiration and envy to our fellow-residents of other nationalities and to the Chinese who have come in contact with foreigners; while the fact that the chief judicial authority had the title and standing of Chief Justice has added proper dignity and lustre to the appointment. The difficulty that has evidently been found in securing a successor to Sir Hiram is no doubt partly due to the insensate change that some one dressed in his little brief authority has persuaded the King in Council to adopt. While a good man might be readily willing to take the post of Chief Justice with the emoluments befitting the position, the same man might well hesitate to throw up his prospects at home in order to take what seems the subordinate position of Judge. No doubt the Foreign Office has been partly induced to take this retrograde step by the knowledge that no other nation has a Chief Justice in Shanghai; and Lord Lansdowne is so anxious to consider the susceptibilities of other Foreign Powers, that he is anxious to remove anything that looks as if we claimed a preponderating position in Shanghai and the Yangtze Valley. It is a retrograde step of the most objectionable kind, whatever be the reason for its adoption, and we wonder that we have not heard that it has been strenuously combatted by the China Association at home. We trust that Mr. Byron Brenan did not mean by the remark quoted above that the China Association had given up the Foreign Office as a bad job.

The new Order in Council, however, has done a still stranger thing than this, and it would be really interesting to know to what genius the following extraordinary provision is due. Smuggling into China is made a criminal offence, punishable by six months' imprisonment and/or a fine of one hundred pounds sterling. No one denies that smuggling is wrong, distinctly wrong; it is a form of stealing; it means defrauding the Imperial Maritime Customs and, through that institution, the Chinese revenue, and it is very demoralising to the smuggler. But it is quite a new idea to make the British Government an active assistant in the protection of the Chinese revenue. It has been thought enough, and it is obviously enough, to allow the Chinese Government to protect its own revenue by giving the power to confiscate when smuggling is detected; but to further make it a penal offence in a British Court to get goods into China without paying duty on them, is a little too complacent to the Chinese Government. That the Law should convert into crimes any acts which the public conscience does not recognise to be crimes, is condemned *in toto* by all

moralists, and rightly condemned. It is no offence against our King or against Society to smuggle; it is the duty of the Chinese Government to repress smuggling, as is distinctly stated in Article XLVI of the Treaty of Tientsin, and the remedy is given them in Articles XLVIII and XLIX of the same treaty. Not only is it monstrous in itself to make smuggling into China an offence against our King, but it is a direct violation of the principle of the most favoured-nation treatment, unless all the other Treaty Powers subject their nationals to similar legislation. Nor can we suppose that the Commissioner of Customs will welcome the duty of prosecuting every British smuggler in the Supreme Court. Our readers will probably think that this must be a grisly joke on the part of Lord Lansdowne; but it is as serious as it is silly.

REFORM IN RUSSIA.

28th December.

THE demonstrations that have taken place of late in Russia, the resolutions passed by the Zemstva and the Moscow Town Council, and the general desire for reform shown by the educated classes, who, as we said yesterday morning, have been "struggling for the political freedom that every other civilised nation, including Japan, enjoys, and prospers accordingly," have not left the Czar unmoved. The appointment of the reform leader, Prince Sviatopol Mirski, to succeed the reactionary Mr. Plehve as Minister of the Interior, was a welcome sign; and now, as will be seen in the long Reuter's telegram that we publish this morning, the Czar has become a reform leader himself. He will have no change in the form of government in Russia, but he urges serious and most salutary changes in the administration, all in the direction of greater political freedom, including one of the most valuable provisions of all, the revision of the Press Laws. These reforms are not yet decreed; they are only proposals whose possibility and the means of carrying them out the Czar's Ministers are to consider and report on. The reactionaries and the bureaucracy may be trusted to oppose them tooth and nail, and it would not be surprising if we were to hear of police-fomented outrages committed to frighten the Czar and turn him from his purpose of the moment; but at any rate the movement, which must succeed in the end, has received a great impulse from this decree, and the fact that the Czar has thought it wise to declare himself convinced that the time has arrived for essential innovations in Russian legislation will be joyfully welcomed by every true friend of Russia.

THE CUSTOMS GAZETTE, JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1904.

28th December.

THE Board of Revenue must have been happy when the Inspector-General of Customs sent in the returns for the third quarter of the present year, for they show a very satisfactory recovery, the record year 1899 being exceeded by over 360,000 taels. The number of ports is the same as last year, Kunichuk, which has dropped out, being replaced by Changsha in Hunan, at which there was a very satisfactory collection, produced, however, at the expense of Yochou, which did a phenomenal business last year. Of the thirty "Chinese Ports," eighteen did better than in 1903, and twelve showed a falling-off, these latter being Newchwang, where the war has interfered with business, Shasi, Yochou, Hankow, Kiukiang, Chinkiang, Soochow, Ningpo, Wenchow, Amoy, Swatow, and Canton. At Hankow and Chinkiang, the decline, however, was very trifling, and it is interesting to see what steady progress is made by the comparatively new ports, Kiaochow, Hangchow, Santuao, and the West River ports. The following table shows the total collection at the thirty ports in the third quarter of 1904, and two previous years:—

Report of Dues and Duties, July-September
Quarter, 1904: Chinese Ports.

Port.	1904.	1903.	1902.
Hk. Tls.	Hk. Tls.	Hk. Tls.	
Newchwang.	175,298	283,666	227,701
Chinwangtao	11,514	9,549	5,781
Tientsin.....	573,335	488,234	703,028
Chefoo	201,983	190,255	266,435
Kiaochow	115,135	69,536	43,741
Chungking	135,636	111,510	93,772
Ichang	129,818	109,209	100,856
Shasi	4,428	5,996	5,002
Changsha	21,239	nil.	nil.
Yochou	3,703	43,356	7,648
Hankow	756,793	757,656	511,074
Kiukiang	198,470	230,395	190,830
Wuhu	194,102	192,963	180,709
Nanking	54,760	48,145	44,300
Chinkiang	299,142	290,465	255,211
Shanghai	2,560,628	2,199,668	2,716,154
Soochow	30,947	33,054	34,096
Hangchow	281,988	266,144	228,326
Ningpo	186,428	215,509	200,584
Wenchow	24,013	30,556	24,700
Santuao	34,977	50,612	20,826
Foochow	280,630	278,573	300,334
Amoy	224,005	240,209	235,967
Swatow	401,853	438,788	408,190
Canton	763,576	782,769	655,493
Kongmoon	27,235	15,182	14,707
Samshui	46,080	42,158	38,149
Kumchuk	nil.	8,472	10,498
Wuchow	159,525	105,291	92,090
Kiangchow	56,296	32,577	70,969
Pakhoi	40,734	35,108	38,387
Total...	7,989,271	7,585,655	7,725,609

This is the largest collection for the third quarter of the year on record, even exceeding the very prosperous year 1899. The compara-

tive figures are: in 1901, Tls. 6,761,594; in 1900, Tls. 5,163,795; in 1899, Tls. 7,626,387; in 1898, Tls. 6,091,247; in 1897, Tls. 6,194,249; and in 1896, Tls. 6,014,860.

Turning to the different heads under which the revenue was collected we get the following comparative figures, in Haikuan taels:—

	1904.	1903.	1902.
Import duty...	2,609,358	2,195,132	2,946,258
Export duty...	2,542,676	2,553,925	2,241,088
Coast trade duty...	433,127	390,127	383,554
Opium duty...	591,448	589,597	492,923
Tonnage dues...	251,117	236,614	227,314
Transit dues...	499,415	467,393	459,955
Opium likin...	1,062,130	1,152,867	972,597
Total...	7,939,271	7,585,655	7,725,609

It will be noted that there was a great improvement in import duty, and a gain in coast trade duty, opium duty, tonnage dues, and transit dues; with a slight decline in export duty and opium likin. Opium duty this year includes 1,193,149 derived from native opium, against Hk. Tls. 157,275 last year.

At Shanghai, the comparative revenue for the quarter, arranged under the usual heads, was as under, in Haikuan taels:—

	1904.	1903.	1902.
Import duty.....	1,460,213	1,178,363	1,793,521
Export duty.....	377,718	281,028	243,619
Coast trade duty.....	110,181	87,462	69,888
Opium duty	110,116	127,338	113,677
Tonnage dues.....	166,637	137,763	154,932
Transit dues.....	47,027	49,791	39,281
Opium likin	288,736	337,923	301,236
Total...	2,560,628	2,199,668	2,716,154

This shows an improvement under every heading except opium duty, transit dues (where the decline is very trifling), and opium likin; and it is satisfactory to see such a marked improvement in import duty and export duty. Under Tonnage, we note that 1,158 vessels of 1,532,891 tons were entered, and 1,147 of 1,528,232 tons cleared, during the quarter against 1,216 vessels of 1,633,792 tons, and 1,198 of 1,639,515 tons, respectively, in 1903; this falling off being probably mainly due to the suspension of some of the more important Japanese services during the war.

In the import of opium there was this year a decline in foreign, and an increase in native drug, the comparative figures being, in piculs:—

	1904.	1903.	1902.
Foreign.....	7,607	8,519	7,206
Native	2,407	1,559	1,643
Total...	10,014	10,078	8,849

In plain cotton goods, there was a decline in grey shirtings, American sheetings, and T-cloths, Japanese ex-

cepted; and an improvement in white shirtings, drills of all kinds, Dutch excepted, and English and Japanese sheetings and jeans. In fancy cottons there was a general decline, except in cotton Italians and figured lastings, and velvets and velveteens. The comparative figures of cotton yarn were as under, in piculs:—

	1904.	1903.	1902.
English.....	111	3,828	1,143
Hongkong ...	150	nil.	294
Indian	323,451	291,500	213,743
Japanese	138,851	159,577	37,083

In woollens, there was a considerable improvement in long ells and Spanish stripes; and there was a marked advance in metals, bar iron and steel excepted. There was also a slight decline in tinplates. Foreign sundries were hardly up to last year, with one or two exceptions, the total import of kerosene oil amounting to something over 16 million gallons, against 14½ millions last year, and 20 millions in 1902. Native sundries were generally rather below last year.

In exports, there was a large increase in Shanghai sheetings, drills, and cotton yarn; also in beancake, beans and peas, raw cotton, wild raw silk, goatskins and rugs; and a falling-off in straw and rush hats, silk cocoons, silk waste, black and green tea and black brick tea, and wheat. Of transit passes, 3,210 were issued and 297 surrendered, against 2,671 and 391 in 1903, and 1,339 and 365 in 1902. The treasure table shows an import of gold to the value of Hk. Tls. 992,213, and of silver to the value of Hk. Tls. 10,817,083; and an export of the same metals to the value of Tls. 367,134 and 13,859,553, respectively. The only goods of which any considerable quantity remained in bond on the 30th of September last were cotton Italians, 6,874 pieces, and 235,000 copper discs.

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION.

29th December.

THE November issue of this highly educative monthly magazine opens as usual with the Editor's "Current Comment," and he devotes his first paragraph to the North Sea Outrage, which he condemns in the most scathing terms. We must wait for the report of the International Commission before we can be sure of what it was that put Admiral Rozhdestvensky and his subordinates into such a fright; but it is not improbable that it will turn out, if the true truth comes out in the enquiry, that the story current in the States soon after the outrage occurred is well-founded, and that it was the arrival of two Russian

destroyers which caused the panic. The fact that the Russian ships confessedly fired into each other shows that the gunners did not stop to take aim, but shut their eyes and blazed away. This accounts for the comparatively small amount of injury done to the fleet of tawlers by twenty minutes' firing from a fleet in battle array. The tone of Mr. Foord's remarks may be judged from his concluding paragraph: "The war itself would have been averted had Russia entertained the respect for solemn international engagements which is accorded them by civilised Powers, and every stage of the struggle has lent new point to the contention that Russia should not really be ranked among these. It hardly needed the North Sea incident to demonstrate the grotesque absurdity of the claim that Russia represents in the present struggle the cause of Western civilisation, but that incident may at least serve as an additional proof that the real peril of human progress, in this day and hour, is the heartless, conscienceless, and incompetent system of autocracy which rules over a sixth of the habitable surface of the earth." And with all his conversion to the need of reform in Russia, the Czar has no intention of losing even a shred of his autocracy.

In his next note, Mr. Foord draws attention to the educative work the American Association of China has done, in getting the U. S. Department of State to grasp the danger of allowing Russia to absorb Manchuria. There has been, we learn, a remarkable increase in the trade in American cotton goods at Newchwang since the Japanese forced Russia to evacuate that port; "most of the mills engaged in supplying the class of fabrics exported to China have been sold for six months ahead. . . . By the end of the year, the statistical results of the trade revival will have become more apparent, and when it comes to a comparison between the returns of the fiscal year ending with next June and those of the year 1904, the difference will be found enormous."

The next note deals again with the Chinese Immigration question, and Mr. Foord argues that great harm will still be done to American commercial interests as well as to the Chinese, until the present rule is reversed, "that it is better that a hundred visiting Chinese merchants, students, travellers, or officials should be insulted and maltreated than that one Chinese coolie should be able to slip through the meshes of official supervision." The new Hague Conference, we hear, is specially called to investigate certain questions which were left unsettled by the last Conference; "the rights and duties of neutrals; the inviolability of private property in naval warfare; and the

bombardment of ports, towns, and villages by a naval force. No observer of recent events is likely to question the urgent necessity of reaching a common agreement on these questions, however much he may be disposed to question the likelihood of some of the signatory Powers of the Hague Convention approaching their discussion in a frame of mind calculated to lead to satisfactory results." The statements made by the great Russian jurist at the recent international conference at Edinburgh fully justify Mr. Foord's apprehensions; but, as we know, Russia has declined to participate in any Conference while the war lasts.

The following comparative table shows the value in gold dollars of the exports of the principal staples from the U. S. to China and Hongkong for the first nine months of 1903 and 1904:—

To China:—			
	Cotton cloths.	Mineral oils.	Wheat flour.
1903	8,102,537	1,186,307	144,559
1904	7,319,958	6,013,067	152,525

To Hongkong:—			
1903	56,270	760,248	3,149,845
1904	29,081	1,874,406	3,328,968

The following table gives the value in gold dollars of the imports of tea and raw silk into the U. S. in the first nine months of 1902, 1903, and 1904:—

	1902.	1903.	1904.
Tea	7,633,006	11,085,470	11,311,422
Silk	29,894,017	33,098,698	34,836,290

This issue of the "Journal" contains a number of extracts of more or less interest, and the report of the annual meeting of the Association on the 20th of October last. In his opening remarks, the President, Mr. Silas D. Webb, an old Shanghai-lander, referred to the war and the well-known general sympathies of the Association, the sympathetic treatment received by the Association from the U. S. Department of State, and the favourable outlook for trade in 1905. The Secretary's report was mainly a recapitulation of the monthly "Journals." It is interesting to note that the "Journal" is self-supporting, the revenue from advertisements paying for the cost of printing and distribution. Among the extracts we find a remarkably interesting article from the "North American Review," by Baron Kentaro Kaneko, "The Yellow Peril is the Golden Opportunity for Japan;" with a number of longer or shorter articles on commercial or financial topics, some taken from our own columns, and usefully brought together, making the annual volumes of this "Journal" a valuable storehouse of information for the members of the Association it represents.

Review.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, ETC.

The Russo-Japanese War. From the Outbreak of Hostilities to the Battle of Liaoyang. By Thos. Cowen. With Illustrations, Maps, and Plans. London: Edward Arnold.

To a journalist at one time of Shanghai belongs the distinction of having produced the first volume on the war that has reached us. The battle of Liaoyang was fought in the early days of September and it is obvious that any account of that gigantic struggle, and any deductions drawn from it, in a book published in London in November, must be of the most sketchy and hasty kind. Few of the correspondents anticipated at that time the equally hard-fought battle of the Shaho a month later. Mr. Cowen, like the others, thought that Liaoyang had terminated the first stage of the war, and his idea was that the Japanese would probably occupy Mukden quietly and then settle down to the defensive, contentedly wearing out the Russian legions which might be poured into Manchuria. The desire to bring the narrative down to what was supposed to be the end of the campaign was certain to produce a top-heavy book, and Mr. Cowen's volume would have been more in proportion and just as valuable with the last chapters omitted.

Two courses were open to the journalist who essayed to write the history of the war from the Japanese side. He could spread himself, as some have done, in describing things actually seen, the marching of troops through the streets of Kobe, the departure of a General from Tokio, members of the Cabinet going to conference before the Throne, the wonderful enthusiasm shown by the great body of people. He might even give descriptions of Chemulpo, perhaps of the Yalu, as seen after the Japanese were firmly established in Corea. All this might be made entertaining enough, but its connection with the war was somewhat remote. The other course was to piece together the news that came from various sources at the front, apply the knowledge gained from acquaintance with the theatre of operations, or at all events of Far Eastern affairs, throw in a certain amount of imagination, and produce a stirring record of events. This is what Mr. Cowen has done, and done on the whole well. He had the advantages of a residence of a dozen years or so in the East; of understanding in a measure Japanese characteristics, Japanese ambitions and Japanese methods; of having visited or lived in most of the coast towns of China, Japan, Corea, and the Liaotung. To a writer thus equipped in himself, and wielding a pen fluently and picturesquely, the seven months from February to September furnished plenty of dramatic material. The first torpedo attack on Port Arthur, the naval fight at Chemulpo, the passage of the Yalu, the landing on Liaotung, the capture of Nanshan heights, the forcing of the passes, Tieliszze battle and the junction of the Japanese armies before Liaoyang, the loss of the Petropavlovsk and of the Hatsuse (Mr. Cowen did not know apparently of the loss of the Yashima), the exploits of the Vladivostok Squadron, the fatal sortie from Port Arthur on the 10th of August—such a

series of mighty happenings crowding one on the other make the creations of fiction seem dull and commonplace. Mr. Cowen has nothing to add to what has already appeared in the newspapers, he has not even had time enough to make his descriptions proportionate, and yet, once picked up, the thrilling narrative he unfolds holds the attention from start to finish.

The preliminary chapter on "The Gathering Storm" sums up clearly and fairly the causes leading up to the war, how vital it was for Japan to keep Russian power at a safe distance from her borders is urged for the hundredth time, and justice is also done to the needs of Russian expansion in the direction of the sea. The publishers have assisted the author by collecting photographs from various sources, and seeing to it that they, as well as the volume itself, are carefully reproduced.

My Chinese Notebook. By Lady Susan Townley. With sixteen illustrations and two maps. London: Methuen & Co. (10/6 net).

There are few things existing in China which are not touched upon by Lady Susan Townley in her pleasant notebook. Not only has the author of this book lived in China, but she has gone about with her eyes and ears exceedingly wide open. She has also read much and, in the first part of her notes, gives a kind of general résumé or abstract of what seems to her of general interest in the books perused. In this way the reader is brought up to 1894 when the war with Japan broke out. A summary of the secret treaty of 1895 between Russia and China is given, and makes up one of the most interesting pages of the whole book, bearing as it does on the present situation of things in general and the position of Russia in Manchuria in particular.

Then comes "the battle of concessions" in 1898, that is the commencement of it, for the battle is still raging. Then comes a long "consecutive list" of the principal events of 1900, gathered from Faber's "Chronological History of China." Then come chapters on Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism respectively; and, after religion, Lady Susan glances at the Classics, then touches on the government of China. After this she descends to everyday life and her own personal experiences; telling of the different people she met, the different places visited. The chapters on Court ladies and the Imperial Mausolea are interesting and well worth reading.

In conclusion comes a short chapter giving the author's opinion on "Reform."

The book is very readable and the illustrations well done. It is a distinctly valuable addition to the many books on China, particularly useful to globe-trotters, and to people at home who want to verify the hazy ideas they may have of the Middle Kingdom, while the excellent index makes it of permanent value. We regret to know that the blue pencil of diplomatic discretion was used on it to such effect before publication that much has disappeared which would have been of deep interest; but what remains is thoroughly welcome.

At the Moorings. By Rosa Nouchette Carey. (Macmillan's Colonial Library.) In paper, 8vo., 461 pp. London: Macmillan & Co. 1904.

Opens brightly and from some of the dialogue in the first chapter one expects—perhaps too much later on.

Betty, an energetic, broadminded, sarcastic girl, appeals to one all round, she is natural. So is Eppie, an old Scotch servant.

Sheila, the heroine, is too good for everyday use, her conversation is often insipid, a kind of "eau sucré" that satiates very quickly. In fact though the book is full of conversation there is often a visible effort and the style is stilted and forced.

Though now and then a bright bit crops up, as when Bunnie comes on the scene.

"As Sheila was sponging the child's face with warm water, Bunnie looked at her aunt with an odd, wistful little smile.

"I ain't such a very little girl, Aunt Sheila?"

"Are you not, dear?"

"Mother never washes my face for me now," continued Bunnie confidentially; "she says I am a big girl, and that she is much too tired. But I think it is nicer to be little. Mother always dresses and undresses Tommy; when I am very sleepy the buttons get all mixed, you know, and sometimes the strings get into a knot, and then mother says I am a careless little girl."

"You are quite sleepy now, are you not, Bunnie; and you like Aunt Sheila to put you to bed?"

Bunnie nodded her curly head.

"I like it dreadfully," she whispered. "Your hands are so soft and lovely and the tangles don't hurt when you comb them. Oh, I am so comfortable," murmured the child drowsily as she rested her heavy head on the pillow.

Some of the quotations heading the chapters are worth more than the chapter they are supposed to describe.

"Your gentleness shall force more than your force move us to gentleness."

And again: "The world would be better and brighter if people were taught the duty of being happy, as well as the happiness of doing our duty."

"I find nonsense singularly refreshing."

Plot there is little or none; just a few incidents, much family history, conversation without end, and a general marrying off of everybody all round.

Nothing new, no ideas, simply a pleasant ramble through some people's lives under cloud and sunshine; no tropical heat, no Arctic cold, no earthquakes, whirlpools, or abysses. Just a ramble or picnic in the course of which the greater part of the guests wander off in pairs.

On one occasion it is true they do have a sunny hour after a few clouds more threatening than usual, but these clouds pass without discharging more than a few drops of the dreaded downpour.

Another time they come across absent members of their party, whom they had given up for lost, struggling in a rather muddy and unpleasant pool, something after the Slough of Despond style; however, a helping hand does wonders.

Marriage bells are the rule and not the exception; the wonder is how so many people perfectly suited to each other—in couples—manage to get invited to one picnic. Somehow, in real life there seem lots of picnics, but the majority of the picnickers either contrive to take cold, get their feet wet, or misunderstand each other, or are tired and bored and wish the whole thing were over. And in the end they generally wander off each returning to his or her everyday life again. Here there is a general air of everyone being just cut to measure and made to order.

Outports, Etc.

CANTON.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

16th December.

Kuangsi News.

A recent letter from Kuangsi states that outside the north gate of Nanning is a place named Kongaukiu, which within the last fortnight has been looted twice, and on the second occasion lives were sacrificed. Those who were robbed assert that the robbers were all dressed alike, in neat uniforms, though in the darkness of the night it was impossible to swear to what regiment they belonged. Without doubt, however, they were soldiers. Moreover, the robbers carried guns with fixed bayonets, and had double belts of cartridges around their waists. It was not surprising therefore that when the guns were fired and the gongs were sounded, the garrison stationed not more than a quarter of a mile away paid no attention to the signals, for it is certain that the robbers were a section of their own crowd, whose duty it is to protect peaceable citizens and to wipe out the rebels.

Kuangsi Boats Pirated.

A few days previous to this three passage boats were returning to a place named Pakshik, and were anchored for the night at the mouth of a river, when pirates, numbering more than a hundred, attacked the three of them, robbed all the passengers, and carried off the three captains to be held for ransom. A wealthy passenger was also carried off, but as he was more than sixty years of age, and could not walk fast, they slew him and threw his body into the river. For the release of each of the three captains three hundred dollars were demanded. One of the captains was, however, recognised by one of the robbers, and the latter, during the night, set the former free. Our authority says that in many places the robbers are now very hardly pressed. They can get but insufficient food and not enough clothing, and are exposed to all the rigours of the inhospitable climate of that rough district. The enrolling of volunteers on all sides has checked the bandits in many places, and where they once helped themselves to the pigs, the bullocks, and the poultry of the people, they are now perforce compelled to content themselves with two meals each day, and they cannot always get good rice at these two meals. They are growing desperate.

The French Railway at Mengtze.

Readers of the native papers have been informed that the French have entered into a contract with the Chinese Government, by which the former are permitted to employ coolies for the construction of their new railway. A recent letter to the editor of the "Young Shing Times" says that the climate is very deadly, and therefore no one is willing to work on the line, for his life is really in danger. Last year two thousand men were enrolled from the Pakhoi district, and in two months most of them had died. During the present year forty thousand have been employed from Tientsin, and of these already four thousand have died, and of the four thousand employed from this province more than four hundred have succumbed.

The Control of the Canton Bund.

The construction of the bund on the Canton river has been entrusted to the Futai and the Chitai. The work cannot be completed at present, however, because all available funds have been exhausted. It is therefore reported here that the officials have decided to borrow funds from the merchants of the city, who will hold certain mortgages as guarantees for the money they have advanced. In fact they will have a lien on the reclaimed land of the new bund, and if so, it will be a safe investment. By this means it is hoped that the work will be pushed to a vigorous completion. The merchants are willing to undertake the task if suitable conditions can be arranged. Everybody interested will be delighted to know that the merchants have assumed the responsibility, for in this case a speedy and successful termination may be expected.

Wholesale Executions.

For some months past, as my notes have indicated, the rich districts of Shuntak and Heungshan have been literally overrun with robbers and bandits. Big villages have been attacked, and the brigands, not being content with the customary pillage, have learnt the advantage of carrying off rich residents and holding them for ransom. At last, however, the officials have been moved into activity. They and their soldiers are making vigorous efforts, not without result, to clear away some of the scoundrels. I saw several boats full of soldiers and their captains, all heavily armed, in hot pursuit of their quarry. It is reported here that not less than a hundred and thirty of these robbers have been decapitated during the last month. The local authorities seem to have been invested with considerable powers, and they use them in such a way as to insure that occasionally a man less guilty than the others shall suffer, rather than that a man who has done deeds worthy of death shall escape. But robbers in the south of China are like the submerged tenth in England. Two persons seem to be waiting to take the place of the one who is removed.

A Successful Bazaar.

One of the functions of Canton, in which all the European and American ladies take part, is the yearly bazaar held on behalf of the Girls' Boarding School of the Wesleyan Mission. It was held a week ago in the Club theatre. The building was tastefully decorated with the flags of many nations, among which those of the Great Powers were conspicuous. The attendance was not quite so large as on some previous years, because unfortunately the Hongkong regatta fell on the same date and several of those who usually patronise the bazaar were down yonder winning both prizes and renown. However, those who took part in the sale, and nearly all the ladies on Shameen were kind enough to assist, were satisfied with the results of their efforts. More than seven hundred dollars were taken, and though something must go to meet current expenses and something more for Japanese works of art, all those who are interested in the well-being of the women of China will be glad to know that a considerable balance will remain to meet the current expenses of the big boarding school for the coming year.

A New Franco-Chinese Hospital for Canton.

A short time ago I referred to the opening of the new medical college here in connection with the hospital of the Medical Missionary Society. Another hospital will presently be opened under French auspices. The institution owes its existence, it is said, to the energy and munificence of a French gentleman, Mr. Paul Doumer, who spent some years in Annam, and moved to pity for the Chinese when they are overtaken by serious sickness, and the appalling ignorance of those who care for the health of their fellow-countrymen, determined to found a hospital in Canton. It was reported to me that the French Government also assisted. I went through the building to-day. It is finely situated, for whilst it is placed in a comparatively poor position, it occupies a healthy site on the river's bank, and stands in its own grounds, which are somewhat extensive as things are down here. The hospital buildings are built of red brick and the floors are laid of glazed tiles. All modern medical improvements are in evidence. The operating theatre seems to a layman eminently suited for the work that will be done therein. It was reported to me that the Chinese have subscribed a large sum of money, in addition to the donation of the French gentleman, and that sufficient funds are available to run the institution as a free hospital. This is perhaps to be regretted, because the doctors in charge of the older hospitals, both in Canton and Fatshan, have been making persistent efforts to make their work self-supporting, and are far on the way to success. However, be this as it may, it cannot be doubted that the hospital will be a great boon to the Chinese, and will confer untold blessings on those who are moved to seek its proffered assistance. Dr. Mias, of Shameen, will have control. Its name indicates that both Chinese and French are united to erect it. It is said that it is in no way affiliated with the Roman Catholic Cathedral here.

CHEFOO.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

22nd December.

"The North wind will blow and we shall have snow," so said the weather prophets yesterday morning, but at 2.30 the sun was bravely piercing the clouds, to shine on the pretty bride, whose marriage a crowd of friends gathered to witness at the Union Church. Miss E. F. Baller, third daughter of the Rev. F. W. Baller, of the C. I. M., was married to the Rev. T. A. P. Clinton, also of the C. I. M. After the ceremony at H. M.'s Consulate, the marriage service was held at Union Church, very prettily decorated for the occasion. The well-known and highly respected father of the bride conducted the service. The bride carried a lovely bouquet of white flowers, and wore a simple Chinese dress of pretty grey silk, a cluster of maidenhair fern and white marguerites in her hair. The bridegroom was accompanied by his best man Mr. Howard Stooke. Mr. J. Stooke gave away the bride. The Misses A. and M. Baller acted as bridesmaids. Mr. B. McOwan officiated at the organ, and played the wedding march in his usual able manner. Two special hymns were sung with much feeling. Dr. Ellerbeck acted as steward.

A group of school girls lined the church steps as the party left and did good execution with their confetti. At 3.30 o'clock a reception at the C. I. M. sanatorium was attended by some sixty guests. The beautiful wedding cake was much admired on account of its decorations, consisting of skilfully worked Chinese characters forming such legends as "This marriage was made in heaven," &c. The numerous wedding presents testify to the great esteem in which the family are held by a large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Clinton will at once travel to their station at Changteh in Hunan, followed with deep interest and the best wishes of all who have had the privilege of meeting them.

CHENCHOU, HUNAN.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

28th November.

The New Order.

Since my last letter all has become quiet and peaceful in the city and its surroundings. The work of the new official has been very effective in bringing order and in suppressing crime. There were some very bold robberies and the robbers were not caught; now a very effective police system has been introduced and there seems to be no stealing nor robbers. Sixty new police have been placed in and about the city so that now on nearly every corner is to be seen a brave watching over the street assigned to him. The new official has had some trouble in collecting the new taxes that have been placed on some of the chief exports of this section, but there seems to be no longer any opposition.

The Rebellion Over the Border.

During the summer and the early autumn there has been an unusually large amount of malaria, and a great many have died from it. Among them was the new military official, who arrived here last spring from Hengchou, and whose firm hand has had not a little to do with the bringing of peace and quiet to this district. His successor has just arrived from Kuangsi, where he has seen some service against the rebels there. His descriptions of the rebels' methods of living in the high mountains and in the inaccessible caves of the mountains were very interesting indeed. He thinks there is little danger of the rebellion coming over into Hunan, simply because the rebels are dependent on the inaccessible mountains to carry on their work, sallying out and then hiding. During the summer the C.I.P.O. has obtained new quarters and is now located on one of the busiest streets of the city, and there is a new man here to take charge of it. He says that the business is steadily increasing and that the route to Kueiyangchou is beginning to be used. The proposed connection between Hunan and Kuangtung has not yet been realised, though there is only one more place to be opened before there could be easy communication between Hunan and Canton.

A Tour.

It was the writer's privilege to take quite an extensive trip through the extreme southern part of the province and over the border into Kuangtung, visiting Kueiyangchou and the hsien cities, Kiahua and Linwu, and then over the border to Lieuchou. It was an

exceedingly interesting trip and gives the impression that this part of Hunan is exceedingly productive. Thousands of carriers travel forth and back between the cities of Hunan and the head waters of the Kuangtung rivers, carrying down peanut oil, wood oil and a tea oil, hemp thread, tobacco, chickens, and eggs in large quantities, and bringing back salt, various kinds of manufactured articles, cloth, matches, etc. At Lienchou I was the guest of the American Presbyterian missionaries; it was a real pleasure to see how well organised and extensive a work they have been enabled to establish in that city. The compound is one of the finest anywhere to be found in China; situated as it is on a high bluff of the river, their houses are away up above the filth and disease of the city, and at the same time in very quick reach of the city and their work. There is now in the process of construction a fine new church, which is being built on their compound, and it is hoped that there will soon be a bridge across the river, so that it will be easy of access. There are two hospitals—a man's and a woman's—which are doing a good work and have helped in a very marked way to break down the prejudices of that district. It was from Lienchou that the first protestant church was organised within the border of Hunan, at Linwhsien, and there is now there a flourishing church of a hundred and fifty members. The members are now raising funds to build a new church. A site has already been procured and about three hundred dollars subscribed. This amount has all been subscribed by members of the church.

This whole country is very mountainous and one is impressed at the great amount of coal that is to be found; and the thought naturally arises: must there not be vast quantities of other metals also?

The Coming Railway.

There will surely come great change when the railroad is completed from Canton through Hunan. It occurred to me that these armies of carriers will be transferred from the present routes to Chénchou, and from here as a centre they will carry to the west and the south, and thus get rid of some of the difficult roads they now have to travel.

From all reports, however, it seems that the new railroad is progressing very slowly indeed. I think that if American capitalists, who seem to be afraid of the enterprise, could see some of the possibilities for trade in southern Hunan and Northern Kuangtung, there would not now be the difficulty about the transfer of American interests to Belgium, France, and Russia, which the Chinese seem to be fearing.

Bad Rumours and Good Facts.

During the summer and early autumn there were many bad rumours about the foreigner and his work in this district; some even went so far as to say that all the new taxes and local troubles were the fault of the foreigner, and wanted to break down the fuyintangs. As was said above, quiet now prevails and there seem to be even more and more interested listeners to the missionaries than ever before. The Presbyterians have two new workers added to their force this year—Mr. and Mrs. Derr, who are studying the language and getting ready for work in this extensive and interesting mission-field. A new place is wanted for hospital and dispensary, and it is hoped a new building and equipment will soon be forthcoming for the work here. The Wesleyan Mission have sent a new evangelist to Chénchou, the former having gone to Wuchang to complete his theological education.

Chénchou, the former having gone to Wuchang to complete his theological education.

CHENG TU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

15th November.

Good Crops,

just harvested, and excellent prospects for another, keep the heart of Szechuan in fairly good humour.

Colonel Manifold's Visit.

Chéngtu has had many visitors during the summer and fall. Colonel Manifold and party's presence produced rare emotions, as if some locomotives and passenger cars were winding around the foot hills.

Mr. Wilson, the Botanist.

delivered a most interesting lecture on the plants, etc., of Szechuan. All were pleased that this banner province of China could produce so many varieties. When the lecturer subtly traced the power of British life abroad in the vigorous growth of Szechuan and Tibetan plants indigenous to the I-l-s, one could not but be reminded of Mark Twain's discovery, that the Britishers were mentioned in the Bible as "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

Consul-General Hosie.

after an extended trip along the borders of Tibet, returns with many excellent curios and a head well filled with useful information.

The King's Birthday.

On the 9th of November the British community were royally entertained at the Consulate.

Mr. and Mrs. Neave.

Chéngtu loses for a couple of years a very popular couple in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. Neave. Mr. Neave expects to return to China as a member of the Canadian Methodist Mission.

In Honour of the Empress Dowager.

The streets of the capital are illumined daily in honour of the Empress Dowager. The Viceroy spreads a great feast on the 16th of November. Almost the entire foreign community is invited.

A Marked Year.

This will be one of the marked years in the history of Chéngtu. The Canadian Methodist Mission are erecting large substantial buildings for Press work. The M. E. M. are constructing a hospital that will reflect great honour on the architect and builder, Dr. H. Canright. The Friends' Mission are making plans for extensive school work. A native printing establishment is also being erected, where a daily paper will be issued. An industrial school has been opened. The Society for the Diffusion of Scientific and Religious Literature has opened a depot on the Great East Street. 500,000 taels worth of machinery is to be added to the present large Arsenal plant in the not distant future. Also, this inland city still lacks one important factor in her upward career. May there soon be heard above the din of machinery, the crack of the practising rifle, the discord of recruiting buglers, the tramp of soldiers' drill, the shrill whistle of the "daily express"?

CHINANFU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

19th December.

The Governor's First Official Feast.

Our new Governor, H. E. Hu Ting-kan, who for three years previous to his promotion was Treasurer of Shantung, took over the seals of office ten days ago, and last Saturday evening, the 17th, he gave his first official feast. Thirty-eight persons sat down at his Excellency's table, of whom nearly one half were foreigners. Bishop Giesen and Father Pius Travarelli representing the Roman Catholics, and three members of the American Presbyterian and one member of the English Baptist Mission representing the Protestants. All the foreign professors in the Provincial College, as also those in the Military School, and three Japanese, all of whom I believe are in the Agricultural College, besides Mr. Decarli of the German Bank, the German Consul, and another German who is connected with the railway, were present. In all, counting the Chinese, eight or nine nationalities were represented, showing what I have called your attention to before, the cosmopolitan character of the foreign population of the capital of Shantung.

Opposite to H. E. Hu Ting-kan sat General Li, of Weilsuei, who was thus the Chinese guest of honour, and who proved himself a very entertaining addition to the company. The Governor and the General sat at the middle of a long table, at the ends of which sat the Treasurer, Shang Chi-heng, and the Judge, Shin; all the guests being seated at this one table. As showing a disposition on the new Governor's part to cultivate the same friendly relations which existed between foreigners and his predecessor, Chou Fu, this feast is a happy augury for the future. It is rumoured that H. E. intends to institute some reforms looking to greater economy in the provincial administration, but so far nothing has occurred to indicate any reactionary tendency on his part.

New Roads.

The excellent macadamised road leading from the east suburb gate to the railway station is now complete, and I believe the road to the west station is also about finished, while the new paving of the east suburb street with heavy blocks of stone is going on apace, and when complete will be a great improvement.

CHINKIANG.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

20th December.

Distinguished Visitors.

Chinkiang has been honoured by a visit from Mrs. Conger, and Miss Campbell. They arrived from Nanking by the S.S. Kutwo, and were entertained in the hospitable home of the ladies of the Methodist Mission on "Pine Tree Hill." Mrs. Conger and party also made a visit to Yangchow. A reception was given at the home of Mrs. Tongliu, and many ladies were present, but on account of the delay of a launch the honoured guest failed to appear. It is to be hoped that a visit to the many places of interest in and about Chinkiang has left as pleasant an impression as Mrs. Conger's visit has on the Chinkiang community. The two ladies left for Shanghai on Monday, the 19th inst.

A Correction.

It was stated in a former note that Mr. Newman was engaged in the in-

insurance business, but later we learn that this gentleman represents the Standard Oil Company.

A One-Horse Settlement.

You have "often heard of a one-horse town," and you must know that Chinkiang is the possessor of one horse (many ponies, but horse only one.) But there is an upward look about the place, notwithstanding.

HSUCHOUFU, KIANGSU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

17th December.

The New Magistrate's Happy Start

Several days ago the city was full of rumours of an extraordinary happening. We heard that the new magistrate, who had taken over the seals of his office only a few days before had effected the capture of the noted robber who for years has been the bane of the surrounding country. Desiring to get at the facts your correspondent's colleague went to the yamen and asked for information. The new magistrate, Yuan Kuei-chün, was exceedingly kind, and gladly furnished us all the facts we desired.

A Chinese Moriarty.

The robber is, or has been, a Buddhist priest called Ming Yuen, and is now fifty-eight years old. For many years he was a freebooter ranging over large portions of the province, dodging the officials and vigorously following his profession. He is said to have gone even as far as Nanking. Twenty years ago he came to the neighbourhood of Hsichoufu and became leader of the An Ching Hui. Since then it appears that his business has been that of advising and directing his underlings in their depredations, though committing no bad crimes with his own hands. Numerous attempts had been made by the officials here to capture him, but all in vain. His underlings were so well situated that it was almost impossible to surprise him, and in case he was surprised his cunning and riches saved him from being arrested.

Better than hoped for.

While everybody supposed that the new magistrate was busily engaged in getting settled in his routine of duties, and while the bad characters were making good use of their opportunities, Yuan Kuei-chün made a quick move, which showed him to be a man of energy and determination. Learning that Ming Yuen was at a temple about forty li distant, he left the city at night with only ten soldiers and arrived at the temple before daylight. At the sight of the soldiers it is said that Ming Yuen only smiled, but his smile faded when he saw the magistrate. He surrendered and was brought to the city for trial. He was given a sentence of confinement for life, but in case evidence can be found later to prove him guilty of murder with his own hands, he will be put to death.

Yuan Kuei-chün

is a younger brother of the Taotai of Shanghai. If the first weeks of his administration are a sample of what is to follow, Hsichoufu shall be congratulated on having a man of such energy, one who when he wants a thing done goes and does it himself.

ICHANG.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

14th December.

A Wedding.

Ichang has been en fête to-day. A foreign wedding has not been seen in the port for four and a half years, most of the bridegrooms preferring a trip to Shanghai to meet and marry their brides; so all the foreign residents were in evidence to witness the marriage of Mr. C. E. Carlson of Jardine, Matheson & Co., to Miss Helen Louise Hyde. The religious ceremony took place in the Burgess Chapel of the Church of Scotland Mission; a reception being held afterwards at H.B.M. Consulate. For the middle of December the weather was most propitious, the sun shining its Ichang best, and the whole ceremony from start to finish was carried through without hitch, and was an excellent success. Any words of mine are powerless to describe the beauty of the bride and her charming little bridesmaid, the happy bridegroom and his affable best man, and the tasteful decorations, for the little chapel was a different creature in its new dress of flags and flowers and evergreens. The service was impressively rendered by the Rev. D. T. Huntington, of the American Episcopal Mission, the congregation joining heartily in the singing of the two wedding hymns, and amid the strains of Mendelssohn's immortal wedding march the happy couple left the church. The reception at the Consulate was given by Consul and Mrs. Guffe in their most generous and lavish style, and formed a most fitting conclusion to the day's gay proceedings. The full story of this most rare and festive occasion must, however, be left to the imagination, and I feel that further description of mine would but be painting the lily, or patting the solar system on the back. With arrangements so perfect and a community so enthusiastic, it seems a pity that an Ichang wedding should be so rare an event.

A Busy Port.

The lack of water in the Tungting lake has driven the Hunan steamers to other ports, and three have paid Ichang a visit. One at present is running to and fro from Tochou with Hunan rice for transshipment to Szechuan, where the bad harvest of this year has caused a good market for the precious grain. It is also reported that the Szechuan Viceroy is giving large orders for rice to feed the labourers for the railways to be started in his province. The Hupeh farmer looks with greedy eyes at the agricultural life in the neighbouring province of Hunan. One was telling me of the two crops of rice per annum in Hunan compared to the one crop in Hupeh, and he sighed for such a farmer's paradise. He said: "Why! in Hunan you just throw your rice on the mud, smoke your pipe, and then get ready to reap in the harvest." a

Foreigner or Native?

My boys called me the other day to see a sick foreigner who had called at the hospital for medical attendance. On my first view of the stranger I thought the Salvation Army had at last invaded China, for he was dressed in the regulation blue and red of that set, and with the large black goggles he was wearing he certainly looked very foreign-devilish. His speech, however, soon showed him to be a true Chiuanman, and undecieved my assistants. He told us that he had been in Japan studying military science for some years, had worn foreign clothes there and intended to stick to them, had cut off his queue in Shanghai, and was proud of the fact, and was now on his way to Szechuan as a trainer of soldiers. I find he is not the first native to have adopted foreign clothing in Ichang, but two or three others

are living so in the city at present. This will doubtless be a common enough sight in Shanghai, but here in the heart of China it is so rare as to merit notice. At all events it is a sign of the times and shows at least the direction in which slow-going and conservative China is beginning to turn her face.

ICHOUFU

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

9th December.

A Visit to the Coal Mines.

In the course of a very recent journey your correspondent found himself at Hsien, 180 li south-west of Ichoufu. Hsien is a small hsien city picturesquely situated in a wide amphitheatre of hills sixty li north-west of Taierhchuang, a busy port on the Grand Canal, and an equal distance north-east from Hanchuang where the highway from Peking to Nanking crosses the same historic waterway. It is at this same Hanchuang, by the way, that the survey for the railroad from Nanking into Shantung terminated a few months ago.

Hsien is well-known because of the coal-mines which lie twenty-five li north of it. They have been worked for many years and are now operated by a joint-stock company, apparently under an understanding with the Germans, bearing the formidable name of "The Chino-German China Prosperity Coal Co. (華德興中煤礦公司). The principal native stockholders of this company are the retiring Governor of this province, Chou Fu, and the Taotai of the Yenhoufu circuit, whose name is Chang. He is officially known as the "Yenitao" (兗沂道).

Having some curiosity to see the mining plant, I made a side journey thither. The mine lies at the south-west base of a mountain named Tsoashan (曹(?)山), from which it takes its name. We met dozens of heavy ox-carts loaded with coke and coal en route for Taierhchuang on the Canal, where there is a large depot of the company. As we approached, the place we beheld the unwonted spectacle of smoke-stacks (five or six of them, all but one of iron) and plumes of escaping steam, while the smoke from the stacks, and from the group of coke-ovens stretching along the base of the hill, darkened the air and forcibly brought to mind similar scenes under other skies. It may be remarked in passing that Tsoashan is the mountain whose lofty, truncated cone is seen by the passenger on the Canal, rising above the nearer and lesser hills in the blue distance toward the north.

Making our way through acres of huge coal piles, we sent in our card to the native manager, and after a pleasant chat were shown through the extensive works. There are six steam-engines in operation at as many pits, three of which are hoisting coal in native baskets, two are employed in keeping the mine free from water, and one is used for lowering timbers for lining and bracing the new drifts. The baskets come up two at a time. They hold one hundred and fifty cabbies each (200 lbs.) and the three shafts deliver from 3,800 to 4,000 baskets per day. There are two hundred miners at work underground at each working shaft, and each "shift" of men stays down twenty-four hours! They are paid according to the number of baskets delivered at the surface of the ground, at

the rate of forty ordinary or "large" cash per basket. The coal sells at the pit mouth for one and one-half cash per catty (1.1/5 cash per lb.). The output of the three shafts is about three hundred tons per day. The coal dust and screenings are made into good coke by burning in covered pits. This coke sells on the spot for four cash per catty (3.1/5 cash per lb.).

It costs a little more than one cash per catty to deliver the product at T'airhchuang, twenty-five miles distant. The promoters have for some time had in serious contemplation a short line of railway from the mines to T'airhchuang, via Hsien, and I was assured by the manager that the scheme has not been abandoned, but he would be a bold prophet who should fix a date for its completion.

One is struck with the characteristic economy shown in the construction of the buildings. They are all of the rudest description, even the large sheds covering the hoists being built apparently of sorghum stalks strengthened by poles and covered with lime mortar. All the operatives are Chinese, those in charge of the engines and hoisting machinery being as a rule Shanghai men. The water is drawn up in immense rawhide buckets, one descending as the other comes up, as is done in other native mines in this region. I saw no pumps except those used to feed the boilers. One of these was said to have been made on the ground, probably put together there. There are no cars, cages, or tramways. It is simply a huge mine worked by native methods, the place of the usual windlass or mule-power being taken by the steam-engines. It would be instructive to compare the output and cost of working with that, for example, of the fine modern works of the German mines at Fangtze or Chichchu'an, in the north. The shafts are over twenty "large chang," or about three hundred and fifty feet deep. The stratum of coal is said to be as thick in places as twelve feet. It seems to be a good article of soft bituminous coal. All the boilers were fired with it, but whether it would stand the test of railway or steamer use is another matter. The underground galleries are all connected, and new drifts are pushing out half-a-li in several directions.

Altogether it is an interesting example of what the Chinese can do in the way of developing their resources when they set about it in earnest. Here at Ichoufu, mines have been worked on a small scale for many years, but the influx of water is too great for the primitive methods employed. Meanwhile the poor people half freeze all the winter for lack of fuel in spite of the fact, which they know as well as any foreign expert, that there is coal to be had almost anywhere. Ichoufu is situated on a vast bed of coal, but no one dares to dig it, even on his own ground, for fear of official interference, a fear only too well grounded.

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE
—The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have wrought to light.—Sufferers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

—ADVT.

PAOTINGFU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

16th December.

Athletics.

The University recently held a field-day for athletic contests. Invitations were given to the three other government schools, but the Military School alone cared to compete. They secured seven points out of thirty-one, leaving a handsome majority to the University boys. Their instructor was drilled at Weihaiwei.

Educational Progress.

We are very glad that it has been decided not to transfer this University to Tientsin. As the worth of an Anglo-Chinese education comes to be better appreciated, the Government can reduce the stipend paid to the students and thus work out the financial problem on Western lines.

Religious Freedom.

We are also pleased to learn that the religious barrier has been removed and that any student who has conscientious objections may be excused from the semi-monthly prostrations. Missionary magazines, please copy.

More Labourers.

Our missionary community has lately been increased by nine young men, who are preparing for service in the South Chihli Mission. The hitherto unoccupied fields of this province are thus being fairly well provided with foreign workers.

A Welcome Error.

All his former friends were happy to give a warm welcome to the Rev. Wm. A. Mather, who has returned from the United States a united man. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mather are graduates of the Hartford Congregational Seminary, and except for some unexplainable mistake should, it would seem, have come to the Congregational Mission of this place. Providence is at present plainly on the side of the west suburb.

LONDON.

FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT.

11th November.

The "Discovery" Expedition.

Judging from the crowds of people who endeavoured to avail themselves of the invitation to be present at the private view of the Antarctic Exhibition, which was opened to the public at the Bruton Galleries last Friday, it would seem that the interest taken in the exploration of the Southern Polar regions far exceeds that of the North, though as a matter of fact no previous expedition has come back armed with such a comprehensive collection of sketches and photographs wherewith to instruct and interest those who stay at home. On Friday the crush at the exhibition was so great that it was practically impossible to see anything even when one managed to get inside the doors, but on the day following I spent a long time in looking at the charming collection of water-colour sketches, the work of Dr. Edward Wilson, and the splendid series of photographs contributed by Lieutenant Skelton, the indefatigable photographer of the company. On Tuesday evening Captain R. F. Scott, the Commander of the Expedition, gave his first public lecture at St. James's Hall; this was likewise illustrated by a number of most beautiful photo-

graphs which were thrown by lime-light on a huge screen; so altogether one now feels one has something more than a bowing acquaintance with the world of ice down South.

Captain Scott is a most interesting lecturer; he has a happy knack of imparting very valuable information in such a friendly, chatty, manner that one cannot fail to listen to him and remember all he says. I don't think I ever realised how cold it really was in those icy regions until he remarked that when they were on their exploring expeditions in the sledges and had to use sleeping bags to sleep in, their breath formed a thick coating of ice on the upper part of the bag during the night and that this never melted but got thicker and thicker as time went on, and that at the end of the expedition—which lasted for ninety-two days—the weight of the bags had increased enormously in consequence and that they were most uncomfortable.

The utmost harmony appears to have prevailed during the entire voyage. In his after-dinner speech at the entertainment given him by the Press Club a few nights ago, Captain Scott said he attributed this to four causes. In the first place they had no money, nor need for money; they were, in the second place, all of one sex; there was no Russian fleet prowling about the Antarctic Ocean; and in the fourth place they had no "Press." At the same time they managed to run an illustrated paper, as several numbers of the "South Polar Times" are to be seen in the exhibition, and by means of Dr. Wilson's sketches one can form a very good idea of what went on from day to day. Football matches, ski races, sports, and concerts were got up from time to time to relieve the monotony of the days, and such events as His Majesty's birthday and Christmas Day were always marked as feast days, when something better than seal or penguin was provided in the bill of fare.

Portrait Painters at the New Gallery.

It is with something like a sigh that one has to confess that the main interest of the fourteenth annual exhibition of the Society of Portrait Painters is to be found in the work of a foreigner, but it is nevertheless true that were it not for the brilliant canvases of Franz von Lenbach the exhibition would be a somewhat dull one; as it is his portrait of "Prince Bismarck," lent by Lord Rosebery, is quite the most interesting picture on the walls, and next to that I would place the same artist's "Emperor William I," a magnificent likeness. "The Marchioness of Granby," by our lately deceased veteran, Mr. Watts, is a work full of charms, and there are two studies—one by Mr. J. McNeill Whistler and the other by Sir Edward Burne-Jones—which are delightful, but these men have likewise passed away and can charm us no more, and when we come to the work of our living portrait painters one feels that there is a lack of interesting subjects which is to be deplored. "Mrs. Manfred Jardine," by Sir James Guthrie, stands out as a work of great power, and the Hon. John Collier is at his best in his likeness of "Sir Charles Strickland" as is Mr. John Lavery in his "Earl of Donoughmore." In the South room there are some pencil sketches and chalk studies by Mr. Watts, Rothenstein, Melton Fisher, and others, some of which are charming and almost as fine as silverpoint drawings.

The Old Lady of Shoe Lane.

There has been quite a small flutter of excitement in newspaperland this week owing to the announcement that Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, the well-known owner of the "Daily Express" and sundry other papers, has bought the "Standard," perhaps the most Conservative of all the daily papers. It is said that he has paid Mr. James Johnstone no less a sum than £700,000 purchase money; this does not, however, seem a very extravagant price as some years ago when a leading provincial paper changed hands the coat of the deal was half a million sterling, and in the present case the evening paper bearing the same name is included in the transaction. The "Standard" has been practically the only Conservative morning paper of any note which has not approved of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of fiscal reform. Mr. Pearson is well known as one of its greatest advocates. Mr. Byron Curtis, the "Standard's" editor, at once placed his resignation in Mr. Pearson's hands; so far his successor has not been appointed, but it seems practically certain that within a very short time the paper will advocate the so-called new idea.

Dan Leno's Funeral.

Few could be surprised when they heard that poor Dan Leno, the King's Jester—to give him the title he loved best—had passed away, as ever since his serious illness last year his life had been at the best most precarious. When I last saw him some two months ago I felt more inclined to weep than laugh at his funny sayings, he seemed so sadly changed from the Dan of a couple of years ago. It is said that quite a quarter of a million of people must have endeavoured to see something of his funeral, which took place at Tooting last Tuesday: the cemetery gates were closed and only opened to admit ticket-holders, but so great was the strain put upon one of them by the outside crowd—which consisted mainly of women and children—that it gave way, with the result that the people fell one over another and many were crushed and some seriously hurt. The barrier gone of course there was an immediate rush inside the cemetery, and although many extra policemen had been placed on duty, they were totally unable to secure anything like privacy for the party of mourners at the grave, and the scene was one of unspeakable confusion; one only marvels that no one was killed.

Two New Ideas.

The "Daily Mail" love evolving new ideas which people shoot out at their readers with startling suddenness. This week, just because the Russian scare has to a certain extent subsided, they have sent up two of their firework rockets. In the first place they see no reason why we in England should not be able to run grand opera at approximately Continental prices. In order to prove their case they persuaded the lessees of Covent Garden to let them take all the seats for one evening and to fix their own prices. Terms were made and accepted and the opera of "Faust" chosen for the test. Roughly speaking the prices asked were slightly more than half those usually obtained; in some cases the reduction was greater, in others somewhat less, but four and a-half hours after the box office opened every reserved seat had been sold, and last evening, when the performance took place, there was not a vacant seat in the house. The performers were members of the San Carlo Grand Opera Company, who are now having a season

here; of course although many of the artistes sing charmingly, they cannot compare with Melba or Termini nor can they command their salaries. So long as individual artistes can ask and obtain £250 a night, or even more, the opera in England can only be had occasionally and as an experiment. The profits of last night's performance are to go to the London Hospital, so the size of the cheque will be a matter of interest.

The "Daily Mail's" second brilliant idea is to publish a weekly "Over Sea" copy of their paper for the benefit of residents in the Colonies or abroad. It is to be sold at an annual subscription of 5/-, but will not be purchasable in England excepting by those who wish to order copies to be sent to their friends. It is to consist mainly of reprints from the daily files of the paper with a few additional notes on subjects of special interest to dwellers in distant lands. Personally, I think I should prefer the weekly edition of the "Times," but undoubtedly the "Mail" caters for the million wherever they may be. Messrs. Harmsworth have just issued a new monthly paper called "The World and His Wife." I got the first number, but could find but little inducements to purchase the second. In size it resembles the "Queen" or "Lady's Pictorial," but its articles and short stories are of the magazine order. Unless I am much mistaken it will not record many birth-days.

J. K.

PARIS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

12th November.

Political Matters.

At the moment of writing, the Chamber of Deputies is holding its final sitting for the ratification of the Treaty with England, signed in April last. The clauses affecting Newfoundland and Egypt have excited a certain opposition; but what is to be remarked more than anything else is the evident disposition of France, as witness the pointed utterances of M. Etienne, the Chief of the Colonial party at the Palais Bourbon, and M. Delcassé, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, towards a strong and lasting friendship with Great Britain. Certain speakers foreshadowed a species of new triple alliance, with Russia, of course, as the third party, but I imagine that was for form's sake. The solid sentiment of the country is more and more favourable to a direct alliance with England foreseeing that Germany in pursuance of her gigantic schemes of embroil all the world will probably succeed in detaching Russia. Though the Anglo-Russian incident caused considerable concern here, some good has come out of it, for it has shown the pacific character of French diplomacy, and France, herself, in the light of a true friend of England as well as of the peace of the world.

Arbitration Talk.

Lord Lansdowne's speech at the Guildhall banquet and Mr. Hay's note to the Powers convoking a new meeting of the Hague conference have filled the air with talk of peace. The American circular, however, is likely to prove embarrassing to France. Willing as she is to see the end of hostilities in the Far East, which are certainly of a nature to do harm to her interests, she can hardly adopt the rôle

of offering (or seeming to offer) arbitration to the nation "amie et alliée" when that Power has shown herself adverse to any such proposition. Meanwhile the country is showing a remarkable tranquillity on the subject of its Russian investments. No less a sum than £160,000,000 is involved. The Minister of Finance has taken precautions, however, to prevent speculation and violent fluctuations by closing the market to the "Bears," and the genuine holders, who get rid of their stock, find it bought up by the great banks for the account of the Russian Government itself, they say.

The Season

may properly be said to have commenced now that the Renaissance has mounted a new play by M. Maurice Donnay, a most prominent member of the brilliant school of playwrights that is responsible for the greater part of the dramatic successes on the French stage during the past few years. M. Donnay's new comedy is entitled "Escalade," which suggests a ladder and a midnight scene, and this is precisely one of the incidents of the play. The hero, played by M. Guitry, the most refined and polished actor of the Paris theatres, is a young savant given to physiological research. He has proved in a learned treatise that the tender passion is a sort of neurotic affection which can be treated therapeutically. But of course the lady arrives who captivates him and puts an end to his theories. The intensely serious lover, by the way, is the fashion on the Parisian stage at this moment. There is a somewhat joyous piece at the Athénée (famous for having given birth to the "Prince Consort," appearing in English as "His Highness, My Husband"), where the husband of the heroine, known to her friends by the pretty name of "Chiffon," is a learned and hard-working young diplomat, almost too busy to attend to the feminine side of his life. This is a change from the previous conception of the stage hero, beloved of the fair sex. He was a frivolous person who thought only of amusing himself and of killing with his fascination. On the whole, the dramatic evolution has brought an improvement.

On Tunnels.

Periodically the question of the Channel Tunnel is revived. At this moment when Anglo-French feeling is of the friendliest character it is being discussed anew. It was started by a discussion in the London Chamber of Commerce. The English commercial men in Paris are enthusiastically in favour of the scheme. In default of the tunnel, however, ingenious people have been putting their heads together to organise a trans-Channel ferry service which would carry the train across bodily, a system, of course, operating with perfect success both in Denmark and the Great American lakes. There is of course a difference in the two cases, the Channel being exposed to all the fury of Atlantic gales, whereas the lakes are, to a large extent, sheltered. But talk of tunnels is not confined to the Channel. The Champs Elysées, that magnificent thoroughfare that leads up to Napoleon's Triumphal Arch and runs between the finest avenue in Europe, would have its tunnel too, to enable foot-passengers to cross it safely. Such is the multiplicity of motor-cars and such "furiosity" of their drivers, that at certain hours in the day it is positively dangerous for the pedestrian to attempt a crossing. The "Sergents de Ville," fairly successful in

the streets in regulating traffic, have long since given up the Champs Elysées as a bad job. And the "chauffeur" naturally regards it as the finest course in town, with the added excitement of the possibility of killing somebody.

The English Craze.

It is not for nothing that the "entente cordiale" exists. Every music hall has its English clown and its English acrobat—that, of course, is understood. But what is positively startling is to find an English music hall, run on the lines of the Oxford or Pavilion, flourishing in the centre of "la ville lumière." The lessee is the well-known public caterer, Mr. Thomas Barrasford. For the first time in their lives the children of the French middle-classes are being taken to the music hall. Ordinarily the diet at such places is scarcely adopted to juvenile digestion. Stranger still, France, which is the land of operetta, possessing some "chefs d'œuvre" of a charm quite unsurpassed, has taken kindly to the London "musical comedy." At this present writing, "The Country Girl," in a French dress, is running briskly at "Olympia," a well-known theatre on the Boulevards. Max Dearly, who takes the part of Huntley Wright, is the first French artiste I ever saw rivalling and successfully rivalling the "lion comique" of the English music hall stage.

The King's Birthday.

It has been the rule for years past for the British colony to assemble in the "hôtel" of the British Embassy in the Faubourg St. Honoré on the Sovereign's birthday and to eat an excellent dinner provided by the Ambassador. Such occasions were looked forward to in the colony as very agreeable opportunities for meeting with one's compatriots. This year, unfortunately, there has been a break in this pleasant tradition. Sir Edmund Monson, whose period of office as His Majesty's representative expires at the end of this year, was unable to hold the official feast because the Embassy apartments are undergoing extensive alteration to fit them for their new diplomatic tenant, Sir Francis Bertie, who comes to Paris from Rome, where he enjoys a most excellent reputation. Sir Edmund has, from various circumstances, entertained but little. Lady Monson is said to have been averse from such social duties, and another contributory cause was undoubtedly the bad feeling engendered by the Boer war. The new Ambassador, on the other hand, is likely to throw wide open the doors of his official residence, and being a man of strong individuality and considerable wealth, he will doubtless bring back something of the old *éclat* to the fêtes in the Faubourg St. Honoré, recalling the days of Lord Lytton and a distinguished line of British diplomats.

Winter's Approach.

The trees even yet keep their foliage in sheltered gardens and in the recesses of the Bois de Boulogne, but the Boulevards are littered deep with dead autumnal leaves. The fog and the rain combined have contrived to turn these last days into a somewhat dismal prelude to the winter, which approaches with its usual outward signs; the hot-chestnut man in the corner of the street, the Christmas toys on the pavement and in the shops, and the curious and characteristic theatrical hotchpotch, the *revue* in which all the world is satirised, in the *cafés-concerts*.

Meetings.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 21st of December, 1904, were present: Messrs. F. Anderson (*Chairman*), A. W. Burkill, H. De Gray, D. Landale, A. M. Marshall, E. S. Little, O. Meuser, C. W. Wrightson, and the Assistant Secretary.

The usual formal business is transacted.

Road Extensions and Widening, Stone-bridge Road.—In a report by the Engineer the estimate for the acquisition and making up of this road from the Sinza Road to the Creek is set down at approximately Tls. 9,000. The needs of the locality do not in the Council's opinion warrant this expenditure at present, and, since it would appear that to widen a small section, in accordance with an application by Mr. Kingsmill, would press hardly on the particular owners concerned, it is decided to defer any action for the present.

Do., Extension 17—W.—A letter from Messrs. Davies and Thomas is submitted offering a contribution of Tls. 300 towards the cost of the section of this road from the Great Western Road to B.C. Lot 4799. The making up of the section is authorised.

Do., Jansen Road.—Noting the objection of the owner of B.C. Lot 2108, to the proposed diversion of this road north of the Yangtseepoo Road, it is decided to leave the scheduled plan as it stands and to temporarily make up the road on the line of the existing creek.

Do., Great Western Road.—Correspondence between the Engineer and a land-owner is submitted with reference to the metalling of a section of this road. The Council will adopt the procedure now usual in such cases, i.e., that one-third of the cost of this work be defrayed by the adjoining owners.

Gas and Water Trenches.—The Engineer's proposal is approved to charge a fixed rate of Tls. 0.25 per foot run of road opening to the Gas and other Companies, in substitution for the present system of detailed calculation of labour and materials involved.

Markham Road Bridge.—The Council is informed that the plan for this bridge has been approved by the Harbour Authorities.

Ordure Contract.—Upon the recommendation of the Watch Committee, supporting that of the Health Officer, it is decided to contract for the collection of ordure for the ensuing year with Chu Chi-woo upon the usual terms. Under this tender, the highest received, a payment of \$5,300 per mensem will be made.

Electric Wire in Astor Road.—The request of Mr. W. P. Daniels is submitted that the wire at present connecting his house with the Astor House Hotel be allowed to remain. The Council considers that, on the grounds of precedent, the request should not be complied with.

Tramways.—Letter from the Council's consulting electrical engineers, in regard to the possible effect of tramways on the meteorological instruments at Siccawei and the double trolley system, is read and ordered for publication:—

8, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S. W.

11th November, 1904.

Sir,—As requested by your letter of 2nd September we beg to submit the following statement of our views upon the subject of possible disturbance of magnetic instruments by the operation of electric tramways, and the proposal to avoid any such disturbance by the use of a completely insulated transmission system, i.e., double trolley lines:—

1.—The instruments liable to disturbance are those used to record periodic or abnormal variation of the directive force on the compass needle both in the horizontal and vertical planes. These instruments are extremely sensitive and are no doubt affected by electric currents passing in the earth in the vicinity.

2.—The General Regulations made by the Board of Trade for Electrical Tramways and Railways are only intended to provide against injury to pipes and other metallic bodies buried in the soil and to minimise, as far as is reasonably practicable, interference with telegraphic or telephonic circuits. By these Regulations the total fall of potential along any rail or other uninsulated conductor used as a return must not exceed the limit of seven volts.

This fall of potential gives rise to currents in the earth proportional to its amount, and it is further provided by Regulation that the current passing through the earth to special earth connections at the Generating Station shall not at any time exceed either two amperes per mile of tramway or five per cent of the total current output of the station.

3.—The limits of leakage thus prescribed were found insufficient to prevent interference with the above-mentioned delicate magnetic instruments and the authorities of the Government Observatories at Greenwich and Kew obtained, after considerable agitation and discussion, the insertion of a special protective clause in Provisional Orders and Acts (see copy attached), authorising the construction and working of electric tramways in their vicinity; but similar protection has not, so far as we are aware, been accorded to Observatories in other countries.

4.—The London United Tramways Company were proposing to construct a large system of electric tramways in the neighbourhood of Kew when the question first arose.

They met the objection at first by proposing to work on a completely insulated system with double trolley wire as is suggested in the present case. After further consideration however they abandoned this proposal, stating that the difficulties were such as in their opinion to jeopardise the successful working of the undertaking, and they proposed to reduce the disturbances to be expected from the use of the rails as a return to a negligible quantity by means of an elaborate system of insulated return feeders and negative boosters.

Finally, as the Observatory Authorities maintained their objections, the Company settled the matter so far as their then proposed undertaking was concerned by the payment to Government of a large sum, about £10,000 we believe, towards the expense of moving the magnetic Observatory to an undisturbed site.

5.—In our opinion the removal of a magnetic Observatory from the neigh-

bourhood of any large city where powerful electric currents are transmitted through the streets for light, power or traction, is the only sure and certain means of ensuring absolute freedom from disturbance.

It is impossible to keep large systems of mains entirely insulated from the earth; the normal leakage on any main may be kept small, but the sum of all these leakages amounts to a considerable resultant leak, and occasional faults will occur entailing the passage of large earth currents. These occasional disturbances will falsify and vitiate the magnetic records, and whereas a daily and more or less constant disturbance can be allowed for, an infrequent and unexpected one may very likely be attributed to a "magnetic storm."

6.—Upon consideration of the relative positions of the Observatory and proposed tramways at Shanghai, and of the traffic to be expected, we are of opinion that practically complete freedom from disturbance by the ordinary working currents used on the tramways will be secured to the Observatory by the use on the tramway system of properly designed and adjusted return feeders and boosters.

We think that the traffic along the river front is more likely to create disturbance than that to Bubbling Well in spite of its greater distance from the Observatory, on account of its greater density and also because its direction is nearly at right angles to the direction of the Observatory, while the direction of the line to Bubbling Well is nearly in a line to the Observatory. Judging by what we know of the expected traffic, we advise the laying of an unboosted return feeder to about Garden Bridge, a boosted return feeder to about No. 4 Bridge, and a boosted return feeder to the end of the double line and commencement of the single line to Bubbling Well, the boosters being regulated so as to maintain the potential equal at these three points. This potential will naturally be approximately zero.

7.—The above remarks indicate our views on the general question and we will now give concise answers to the three points specially referred to us as follows:—

(I) The course adopted by similarly situated Tramway Undertakers within our experience has in no case been to adopt double trolley. The London United Company preferred to pay a large sum towards removing the Observatory. The London County Council have adopted conduit system on all lines near Greenwich. The S. E. Metropolitan Tramways Company who owned a line near Greenwich were considering the adoption of a surface contact system and we examined several such systems on their behalf, but their line has now been acquired by the London County Council.

(II) The approximate difference in cost between double and single trolley lines is not very great. We think about £400 per route mile would cover it for the overhead equipment, and say £500 per route mile for additional feeders required. This latter item would be a variable one due to the conditions of the case, but may be taken as an average. It is the added difficulties of working and complication that are the real objections to the double trolley.

(III) We do not think there will be any saving of current by a double trolley line, on the contrary the system entails the use of either higher pressure or larger currents as the loss of energy

is increased by the additional resistance of the return.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

PREECE & CARDEW.

THE SECRETARY,
Municipal Council.
Shanghai.

Copy of Clause.

(7) When any Department of His Majesty's Government represents to the Board of Trade that the use of electrical power under this Order injuriously affects or is likely to injuriously affect any instruments or apparatus whether electrical or not used in any observatory or laboratory belonging to or under the control of that Department the Board of Trade after such inspection or inquiry as they may think proper may by their Special Regulations require the Company to use such reasonable and proper precautions including insulated returns as the Board of Trade may deem necessary for the prevention of such injurious affection. For the purposes of this sub-section any inspector of the Board of Trade may during this inspection of the Company's works and apparatus be accompanied by any person appointed in that behalf by the Government Department concerned and the Company shall give all due facilities for the inspection: Provided that in the case of any observatory or laboratory established after the commencement of this Order or of any instruments or apparatus hereafter used in any existing observatory or laboratory which may be of greater delicacy than those used therein at the commencement of this Order the Board of Trade shall consider to what extent (if any) it is expedient in the interest of the public that the powers of this sub-section should be exercised regard being had to the site of the observatory or laboratory or the purposes of the instruments or apparatus as the case may be.

(8) In this section the expression "the Company" includes any person owning working or running carriages over the railway.

The meeting adjourns at 7 o'clock p.m.

The following are forwarded for publication with the foregoing minutes:—

POLICE WEEKLY REPORT.

Return of apprehensions, etc., made during the week ending 16th December, 1904.

Offences.	No. of apprehensions.
Assault	4
Breach of Garbage Regulations	34
Breach of Municipal Regulations	151
Burglary	2
Committing nuisance	282
Cutting and wounding	1
Extortion	5
Larceny	45
Loitering or suspicion of larceny	2
Obstruction	133
Obtaining goods under false pretences	1
Soliciting prostitution	9
Unlawful possession	1
Miscellaneous cases	7
Ricksha licenses suspended	345
Wheelbarrow licenses suspended	101
Handcart licenses suspended	2
Beggars, hawkers, and rapscallions	486

Total number of cases coming under the notice of Police	1,611
Chinese dead bodies found in streets	11
Unmuzzled dogs captured	20
" " shot	15

A. M. BOISRAGON, CAPT.,
Captain-Superintendent of Police.

ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER.

Municipal Buildings and Properties.

Goal.—Two padded cells are being constructed for the accommodation of self-destructive prisoners.

Shed for Police Van.—A shed for housing the Police van has been completed on the site of the Wayside Police Station.

Transformer Houses.—Two transformer houses for the Electricity Department have been completed, one on the Bubbling Well Police Station site and one at the Council's Concrete yard Range Road.

Streets.

Negotiations have taken place with regard to the following:—

Widenings.—Honan Road B.C. Lot 165.

Extensions.—Ward Road B.C. Lots 4318, 4519, 4542, 4537; Great Western Road B.C. Lots 2294, 4810; Road Extensions No. 2 and 29 Eastern B. C. Lots 2294, 4160.

Works Completed on Road Extensions.—

Works have been completed on Haining, North Chekiang, Boone No. 16 W, Great Western and Weihaiwei Roads, as shown by the following table:—

Districts.	Western, Central, Northern, Eastern, Outside Roads	Total.	Damage.
Tidal ditches cleaned.	9,350	9,350	
2'3" x 1'6" Sewers laid.	110	110	
12" Sewers laid.	195	195	
Brick manholes.	6	6	
Street gullies laid.	9	9	
Metalling.	385	385	
Concrete paving laid.	75	75	
Tar Macadam repaired.	405	405	
Foochow po'e railings erected.	30	30	

Works Completed on Existing Roads.—

The following table shows lengths of sewers and ditches cleaned, lengths of sewers with necessary manholes and gullies laid, new street gullies laid in place of old defective ones, lengths of new pavements and kerb and channel laid and roads metalled, etc., etc., during the month:—

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD

MIXTURE.—"The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light." Sufferers from Scrofula, Sourry, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

Districts.	Western.	Central.	Northern.	Eastern.	Outside Roads.	Totals.
Ditches cleared.	4,510	...	...	...	1,770	6,580
2'3" x 1'6" S-wer. laid.	...	...	...	...	28	28
9" Sewers laid.	7	...	...	...	...	7
New street gutters laid in place of old defective ones.	No.	...	...	...	...	...
Concrete pavements laid.	519	164	390	621	614	2,083
Tar Macadam repaired.	280	...	...	...	...	280
Chip-paved margins laid.	180	164	390	621	...	801
Chip-paved foot-ways repaired.	290	164	390	621	...	754
Tar pavement repaired.	520	...	...	...	...	250
Chip-paved carriage-ways repaired.	697	1,060	...	...	255	2,012
Kerb and channel laid.	330	80	...	...	...	320
Kerb and channel relaid.	80	...	...	...	...	80
Metalling.	2,105	2,420	...	...	...	1,683
Macadam roads repaired.	650	1,575	1,352	...	...	5,907
M.C.R. Stones fixed.	No.	...	...	...	...	46
Fire Hydrants erected.	No.	...	...	...	...	2
Public Electric Lights erected.	No.	...	...	...	...	1
Gas, water, and other trenches opened.	3,603	1,311	3,640	321	...	8,875

Cleansing and Scavenging.

7,674 cartloads of garbage were collected, an increase of 213 cartloads over the corresponding month of last year.

Quarry.

2,815-8 tons of road materials have been received during the month from the Council's quarry.

Stonebreakers.—No. 1 or Baxter stone-crusher has been thoroughly overhauled, new crankshaft, brasses, screws, etc., being substituted in place of the old ones. The retaining wall has been strengthened and a new receiving platform of wood laid down.

Concrete Ware.

Eighteen hundred and ninety-seven pieces of hard-made concrete ware have been manufactured at the Council's Hongkew Depot during the month.

Creeks and River.

Bridges.—The new bridge over the Hongkew Creek at Scott Road is in course of construction, the main piles have been driven and levelled. This is a wooden bridge of the usual type and has 3 spans of 35' 0". The clear width between parapets will be 31' 0".

Buildings.—Fair progress has been made in the construction of the concrete bundings along Soochow and Defence Creeks, and six hundred and fifty-five feet of wooden bunding along the Yang-kingpang has been repaired.

In connection with the scheme for reclaiming that portion of the Soochow Creek foreshore, adjoining the Public Garden, the wooden bunding forming part of the toe of the stone slope has been completed, and the stone slope has been made for a length of 75' 0" and a width of 8' 0". As it is only possible, at present, to carry on this work for a few hours at low water of Spring tides (Low water Neap tides covers the work) the rate of progress is naturally slow.

Landing Stages.—Extensive repairs have been made to the Fearon Road landing stage near Range Road.

Dredging.—Soochow Creek has been dredged in front of Markham Road Garbage chute and the channel deepened by the removal of five hundred and fifty-six tons of mud.

New Buildings.

Plans have been approved by the Council for the erection of four hundred and two buildings made up as follows:—

Western District	157
Central	43
Northern	57
Eastern	155
Total	402

The following table shows lengths of drains, etc., of various sizes laid on private property by the Department during the month:—

Districts.	Western.	Central.	Northern.	Eastern.	Totals.
12" Pipe drains.	...	...	...	...	18
9" Pipe drains.	184	26	142	20	372
6" Pipe drains.	752	154	300	32	968
4" Pipe drains.	274	78	142	...	494
Manholes.	23	6	18	3	45
Yard gullies.	47	9	19	...	74

Survey Work.

Ninety official measurements of new land lots have been attended during the month.

Six Consular lots and eight Cadastral lots have been surveyed during the month, and eighteen independent surveys have been made in connection with road widenings and extensions.

Boundary stones have been erected on two Consular lots, and nine surveys of Municipal properties have been made.

Plans of the different districts have been prepared in draft for 1905 showing the road widenings and extensions projected.

Miscellaneous.

The average number of labourers employed during the month exclusive of contract work has been 2,309 as against 2,697 during November, 1903.

CHAS. MAYNE,
Engineer and Survey

THE EWO COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LD.

Annual Meeting.

The ninth ordinary meeting of the above Company was held at 27, the Bund, on Friday, Mr. H. Keswick in the Chair. There were present Messrs. A. McLeod, P. F. Lavers, Lee Quang-ying (members of the Consulting Committee), Jas. McKie (Acting as Secretary), W. C. Murray, J. Kerfoot, B. A. Clarke, H. J. Clark, Moosa, Yuen Chong, and J. M. Young.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, The report and accounts were circulated to shareholders some twelve days ago and with your permission I will not detain you by repeating them, but regard their contents as read. We have to report to you a very disappointing year, for whereas we made quite a satisfactory profit on the first six months' working, the adverse circumstances which are referred to in the report resulted in the mill running at a loss during the latter part of the period under review. Our first reverse was the immediate result of the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan, which not only entirely stopped clearances of yarn already sold to Northern outlets, but caused an accumulation of stocks on all of which interest charges absorbed the working margins. Then, later in our financial year, we had as a result of famine prices prevailing for American cotton, an unusually strong demand for export, which resulted in the price of the locally grown staple touching a level that rendered it impossible to spin yarn at a profit. In connection with the figures submitted to you, it will be noticed that the balance at credit of Working Account is Tls. 71,137.30, which shrinks to practically nothing when deductions are made for the very heavy item of interest charges to which I have already referred, and for the concurrent heavy insurance premia incurred for the same reason. The balance at credit of Profit and Loss account, Tls. 12,844.76, it is proposed to carry forward to current year. The sum of Tls. 10,245.00 has been spent on renewals and repairs to machinery, and our mill manager submits a very satisfactory report under this heading; indeed, we are turning out as heavy a weight of yarn as the mill has ever recorded since its construction. As regards the future I have pleasure in stating that the mill's production up to May 1905 has been sold at a profit and we can only hope that we may be more successful in the latter part of next year than we have been in 1904.

There is one thing further. You will have no doubt noticed in a report of a meeting of another company on the other side of the river that there was considerable criticism, and a certain shareholder, according to the printed reports, complained that although an enormous piece goods business was going on, yet at that time there were no large clearances of yarn from stock. It is quite true that there is a large business, but it is for further delivery in March and April next year, and this applies equally in our case. I shall be pleased to answer any questions from shareholders.

There being no questions, the following resolutions were passed without comment:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. McLeod:—That the report and accounts as published and circulated to the shareholders, be adopted.

Proposed by Mr. Brodie A. Clarke, seconded by Mr. H. J. Clark:—That the retiring Consulting Committee be re-elected for the ensuing year.

Proposed by Mr. W. C. Murray, seconded by Mr. Yuen Chong:—That Mr. G. R. Wingrove be re-elected auditor.

The meeting then terminated.

Amusements.

HERR FRIEDENTHAL'S RECITAL.

There are perhaps a dozen pianists in the world about whom the critics have said their last word; Herr Albert Friedenthal is emphatically one of them. Such playing as was heard in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday night can, in the nature of things, be heard but rarely in Shanghai, and when heard is to be described only with difficulty. It was of the kind that holds the lover of music spell-bound while it lasts and releases him, as it ceases, almost with a shock of relief—relief from too much splendour. In the generous programme of five long numbers there was not one that the audience would have missed. It opened with the "Moonlight Sonata," and the master at once had his listeners enthralled; the dazzling presto movement roused them to an enthusiastic amazement, but the lovely allegretto was as wonderfully rendered. Chopin is Herr Friedenthal's special study and he chose four pieces from his works. We liked the Funeral March best; the gradual crescendo was exquisitely worked up and it seemed as though the summit was never to be reached, so much power had the player in reserve. The Valse Posthume and the Polonaise in A flat are exercises in manual dexterity, beautiful exercises certainly but chiefly interesting as show pieces. That cannot be said either of Liszt's setting of the Tannhäuser Overture or the eleventh Hungarian Rhapsody, both of which were interpreted perfectly. Technique and expression alike could not be improved. An interesting number was Herr Friedenthal's own version of the storm scene from the Flying Dutchman, a piece full of delicate nuances of description astonishingly brought out. "Csardasban Pusztában," another of the performer's own, was also noticeable for its quaint almost fantastic effects, no less than for one particularly charming melody. The Schubert-Liszt "Serenade," came as a ravishing interlude amid the more dazzlingly ambitious pieces, while a most acceptable concession to purely popular fancy was Corelli's "gavotte antique," with its eight or more brilliant variations; in response to prolonged applause, Herr Friedenthal obligingly repeated it.

There was some fear at first that the concert would have to be postponed. The Bechstein piano which Herr Friedenthal carries with him could not be landed in time; several others were kindly offered, but only at the last minute was one—a Bechstein—at all suitable discovered. Since the pianist himself pronounced it adequate, it would be ungracious on the part of anyone else to find fault with it.

THE FORTNIGHTLY SÉRIES.

Church Room Entertainments.

To start a series of entertainments successfully is half the battle, and this being the case, the Fortnightly Series of entertainments and lectures should, ere winter is finished, be one of the most successful fixtures of their kind in Shanghai. The large Church Room in the Cathedral compound was well filled on Tuesday evening, when the first concert of the above series was given. The concert was given by the Police and their friends, and the friends were responsible for the larger portion of the programme. Mr. B. G. Tours was to have taken the chair, but he was unfortunately unable to attend and the position was therefore filled by the Rev. A. J. Walker. The pianist who was to open the programme did not turn up, so the Chairman set the ball rolling with a song entitled "Middlesex," which was loudly applauded. Miss Rogers followed with a lively patriotic song, "Scarlet and Blue," which was also well received. Then Mr. H. Landers sang "Can't he take my word?" at the conclusion of which the laughter and applause were so vociferous that he had to come back and sing another comic song. Next Miss Buchanan rendered a selection of Scotch airs on the violin, and she too had to give an encore. Her imitation of the bagpipes when she put a mute on her instrument was excellent, and the imitation was enhanced by the way in which her sister played her accompaniment. Mr. C. J. Head, who, as the Chairman mentioned, had done all that could be done to make the concert a success, kept the audience in roars of laughter with his song, "The Amateur Whitewasher." The first part of the programme closed with Mr. Spottiswoode's song, "India's Reply." He fully deserved the applause he received for the thrilling sword and lance exercises he went through.

In the interval the gentlemen in the audience had round refreshments to the ladies.

Mr. S. Robinson opened the second part of the programme with an intricate piece on the banjo. An encore was repeatedly called for and he had to give another selection. Most of the concert-going public have heard Mr. Drakeford sing "The Deathless Army," but it was none the less received with a thunder of applause, and at length he had to bow to popular opinion and reappeared to sing another song. Miss Buchanan played another pretty violin solo entitled "Violet," and then Miss Rogers sang "The Gift." Mr. Landers gave a humorous recitation of the "Charge of the Light Brigade," and in response to repeated calls for an encore gave a representation of his experiences with a travelling theatrical company, which included an excellent imitation of a gramophone which had gone wrong. A comic duet sung by Messrs. Robinson and Head brought the concert to a close, though not before they had sung an extra verse. The chairman announced that the next of the series would be a lecture by Captain Boisragon on his experiences in Benin. After "God Save the King" had been sung the audience dispersed; their only regret being that such an enjoyable evening had come to an end so soon.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE." Clarke's World-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from whatever cause arising For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 6d. Beware of worthless imitations.

SPORT.

Association Football.

Saturday's Association football was of Christmas class, and not one of the four contests that took place could be said to have afforded the spectators a good exhibition of football. The principal match of the afternoon was that between the

SHANGHAI FOOTBALL CLUB and H. M. S. IPHIGENIA,

in which the sailors had practically their full strength, but the home Club were without several of their most prominent players, including Captain J. T. Tyack, N. Ramsay, D. M. Graham, and A. J. Welch. In the first half of the game the Football Club, with the breeze behind them, had much the best of the game, but although several fine movements were initiated by Morfey and Wilsen and continued by Matthews and Elmore on the one wing, or Beswick and Anderson on the other, the shooting was far from perfect, lacking sting and direction. At half-time neither side had scored.

In the second half the Football Club again attacked strongly, but in spite of all their efforts it was not until a quarter of an hour before the close of the game that a pass across by Beswick enabled Matthews to notch the first goal for the Club. This was the signal for a furious bombardment of the sailors' goal, and during the ensuing ten minutes no fewer than three more goals were credited to the S. F. C., Elmore, Griffin, and Beswick putting the finishing touches to movements initiated by the home half-back line. When the whistle sounded for time, the score was: Shanghai Football Club, 4 goals; H. M. S. Iphigenia, nil.

Although the home Club won by a large margin, they were even more the superior of their opponents than the score shows. For the winners, Matthews, Beswick and Anderson were the pick of the forwards, Morfey of the half-back line, and Ollerdesen played a splendid game at full back.

SHANGHAI FOOTBALL CLUB 2nd XI v. S. M. POLICE.

The Senior Club's second string faced the Police combination, and the game was closely contested, though the football was only second-rate. Had the Police played a better combined game they would certainly have been victorious, but while they have three or four really good footballers, the reminder of the team have little or no knowledge of the game. At half-time the score stood at one goal to nil in favour of the Police, but in the second half the S. F. C. managed to equalise and the game was drawn.

SHANGHAI RECREATION CLUB v. ENGINEERS' FOOTBALL CLUB.

The Engineers are handicapped in that they are never able to put the same team into the field two weeks in succession, so that combined play is almost an impossibility for them. In Saturday's game the Recreation Club were not long in registering a couple of goals, R. J. Brandt notching the first and C. E. Garnor the second (from a penalty). Then the Recs. seemed to ease up, and every man was playing for himself. This move on their part enabled the Engineers to score a couple of goals in quick succession, and when half-time was called the score stood at two goals all. In the

second half the Recreation Club easily held the upper hand, and Brandt and Milner (2) added goals, the home Club winning by five goals to two.

GERMANS v. DUTCH.

On the ground near the Widow's Monument a friendly game was indulged in between teams playing under the above title. Only fifteen men took part in the game and the Germans scored an easy victory by eight goals to one.

The Christmas Paper Hunt.

Christmas Day falling on a Sunday, the annual Christmas Paper Hunt was held on Monday, the start being at Fahwah, over a course laid by the Master of the Hunt, to a finish at Unkaza opposite the grounds of Mr. E. Jenner Hogg. From a spectator's point of view the weather could not have been more favourable, but from the huntsman's view the ground was hard and dry, and there was a good deal more dust than was appreciated. From half-past two o'clock there was a continuous stream of carriages along the Maloo, Bubbling Well Road, and Sicawei Road, and about half-past three there must have been some eighty carriages, and five hundred spectators lined up on the Sicawei Road in the vicinity of the starting point. The field of huntsmen made a pretty sight, which would have borne comparison with many fields at Home hunts, had it not been that the hounds were absent. Of those that faced first the opening jump, at least one-third were in "pink," and many of the rest of the field were attired in conventional "topper and frock" or the hard bowler and black or grey cut-away. Punctually at half-past three the word was given, and eighty odd riders put their ponies at the first ditch. Of these more than seventy successfully negotiated the obstacle, leaving far behind an odd dozen or two whose ponies pecked or refused. Coming past the third obstacle, the pinks were well to the van, with the other gradually streaming out into almost single file. Those who had witnessed the start then made a rush for carriages, Walers, and ponies to convey them to Unkaza, where the Hunt was to finish. Along the Sicawei and Jessfield Roads was one continuous stream of carriages and horsemen, with not a few cyclists mingling with the crowd. On arrival at Jessfield village it was found that the narrow lane was lined on both sides with standing carriages, making it impossible for those who had witnessed the start to approach the finishing point otherwise than on foot, and even then the pedestrians had narrow escapes of being jammed between the wheels of carriages moving in either the same or opposite direction. Our staff of Mounted Sikhs is limited, and the district traversed was outside the Settlement, but although no serious accident actually occurred, a section of special police for the occasion would have been a boon. At the finishing point more than a thousand spectators had congregated, but it was some time before the huntsmen came into view. About a quarter to five, however, they were sighted, and it was at once seen that the "pink" was well in the van. The riders passed the post in the following order:—

- 1.—L. N. Leefe, on Mongol.
- 2.—D. Landale, on Chimney.
- 3.—E. U. Reid, on Bête Noire.
- 4.—J. Byrne Hackett, on Effendi.
- 5.—G. Dallas, on Marconi.
- 6.—J. Jaspersen, on Capt. Kettle.
- 7.—F. L. Fearon, on St. George.
- 8.—W. B. O. Middleton, on Liability.

This was the order at the finish, but at least two protests were laid that the leaders had not followed paper, and we understand that this is admitted.

After the Hunt, an adjournment was made to the beautiful house and gardens of Mr. E. Jenner Hogg, where hospitality was dispensed in the style which has always made Mr. Hogg's name associated with the annual Christmas Paper Hunt. As a fitting termination, Mr. A. W. Burkill, Master of the Hunt, briefly but aptly thanked Mr. and Mrs. E. Jenner Hogg for their kind hospitality, which he said had been extended to the members of the Hunt and their friends for the past twenty-five years, and concluded by presenting Mrs. Hogg with a beautiful bouquet of seasonable flowers.

Without going into full details as to the course, we may say that it was carefully planned and well laid, and the day's sport was only marred by the close attendance and interference of several horsemen who were not members of the Paper Hunt Club. We regret to have to mention that nearly all of these intruders were residents, and it speaks little for their sportsmanship that they so far forget themselves as to mar a day's sport in such a manner. Such conduct can only be the result of ignorance or impudence, for were it a matter of pocket, surely the subscription to the Hunt is a trifle to the man who can afford to own or hire a pony.

The Stewards of the Paper Hunt Club held a meeting on Wednesday, at which it was decided that Mr. W. L. Gerrard, on Lezzin was the winner in the light-weight class, and Mr. G. D. Coutts, on Loch Gail, in the heavy-weights.

Golf.

The Bogey Competition, played on Saturday, Sunday and Monday last, resulted as follows:—

G. M. Wheelock.....	All square.
J. H. McMurtrie.....	3 down
G. A. Richardson.....	4 do
C. E. Sparke.....	4 do
G. C. Dew.....	5 do
J. T. Disselduff.....	6 do
Th. Raaschou.....	7 do
H. G. Gardner.....	7 do
G. F. Lanning.....	7 do
C. Selby Moore.....	8 do
W. H. Bell.....	8 do

THE HONGKONG RACES.

Mr. T. F. Hough, Clerk of the Course, has kindly sent the "Hongkong Daily Press" the particulars of the Hongkong Jockey Club Race Meeting, to be held at the Race Course, Happy Valley, on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of February next.

The first day's events are as follows:—Wongneichong Stakes (half-mile), for subscription griffins; the Victoria Stakes (one mile), for China ponies; The Valley Stakes (three-quarters of a mile), for subscription griffins; The Maiden Stakes (three-quarters of a mile), for China ponies, griffins; The Foochow Cup (two miles), for China ponies; The Garrison Cup (from the two-mile post once round and in), for China ponies, griffins; The Chinese Club Cup (one-mile), for subscription griffins of any season; The Lusitano Cup (one-mile), for China ponies, griffins; The Hongkong Club Cup (one mile and a half) for China ponies; The Encouragement Stakes (five furlongs), for subscription griffins.

Second day:—The Jockey Cup (once round), for subscription griffins of any season; The Exchange Plate (from the

two-mile post once round and in), for Chi-a ponies; The Hongkong Derby (one mile and a half), for China ponies, griffins; The German Cup (one mile and a quarter), for subscription griffins; The Gold Coast Cup (five furlongs), for China ponies; The Professional Cup (one mile), for griffins that have never won a race; The Challenge Cup (one mile and three-quarters), for China ponies; The Spring Stakes (from the two mile post once round and in), for subscription griffins; The Navy Cup (one mile and a quarter), for griffins; The Racing Stakes (three-quarters of a mile), for subscription griffins of any season.

Third Day:—The Grand Stand Stakes (three-quarters of a mile), for China ponies, griffins; The Great Southern Stakes (one mile), for China ponies; The Governor's Cup (one mile); for subscription griffins; The Ladies' Purse (once round), for China ponies; The Flyaway Stakes (seven furlongs), for China ponies, griffins; The Phaeton Stakes (three-quarters of a mile), for China ponies that have been in the Colony prior to September last and subscription griffins; The Consolation Stakes (three-quarters of a mile), for non-winners at the meeting; The Hongkong Stakes (one mile and a half), a forced entry for subscription griffins; The Champion Stakes (one mile and a quarter), for winners at the meeting only, a forced entry; the Nil Desperandum Stakes, five furlongs, for non winners.

It will be noticed that H. E. the Governor has presented two Cups, the Gold Coast Cup and the Governor's Cup.

Correspondence.

THE AMERICAN MAILS.

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—In the "good old days," when our American mails were being forwarded by another than the regular (!) mail steamers, we were informed through your columns, through the courtesy, I suppose, of the American Postal Agent, that such a Japanese steamer, or French, or other nationality as the case might be, was bringing the U. S. mail. For long, now, we have not been favoured in this way. Why should we not be? For instance, our present incoming mail, ex Korea, which does not call at Shanghai on this trip,—where is it?

And in this connection I should like to remark that it seems to an onlooker, yet an interested one, as if our American postal authorities were sometimes a little too easy with themselves when a mail arrives a little late in the day,—if after eight o'clock we can wait until the next morning before receiving our mail, which certainly would not be the case if delivered through the British P. O. Verbum sap.

I am, etc.,

AMERICANUS.

28th December.

Miscellaneous.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(BY TELEGRAPH FROM PEKING.)
SPECIALLY TRANSLATED FOR THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.")

22nd December.

All Princes and high Ministers and others whose turn it is to be on duty to-morrow within the Imperial Palace are commanded to attend in full dress Court robes.

27th December.

(1) T'eh T'u-sheng is appointed Senior Manchu Vice-President of the Board of Civil Appointments, and Sha Lien is

appointed Senior Manchu Vice-President of the Board of Rites.

(2) Chung Lin is appointed Acting Vice-President of the Mukden Board of War, in conjunction with his other duties.

(3) Nô Ch'ing is appointed Senior Vice-Commissioner of Octroi at the Ch'ungwâ-gate of Peking, for the ensuing year.

(4) Shou Chi is appointed Lieutenant-General of the Manchu Bordered Blue Banner Corps organisation and P'u Cho is appointed to a similar post over the Mongol White Banner Corps organisation.

NOTES ON NATIVE AFFAIRS.

24th December.

A Nofable Betrothal.

The betrothal of the daughter of H. E. Shêng Kung-pao to Wu, Taotai of the Kao-Lien-Ch'ing Intendancy, of Kuangtung province, takes place to-day, the Introducer (Mei-jên), or person who brought about the felicitous occasion being his Honour Yuan, Taotai of this port. The bridegroom is a widower, having lost his wife a year ago.

Sending Troops Into Honan Province by Rail

Owing to the unrest at present in the region round about Kaifêng, Viceroy Yuan Shih-k'ai has sent down there by train from Paoing a brigade of his foreign-modelled troops to assist the Hunan authorities to keep order. It is evident that the value of railways, for military purposes at least, is greatly appreciated by the Chinese Government, which makes all the stranger the past opposition against this innovation. The present unrest in Honan is, of course, due to the imposition of extra taxes to pay the War Indemnity.

A New Gold Deposit Discovered.

It having been discovered by natives of Têngchou prefecture, Shantung province, that the hill district of Wên-têngshien, of which Langhushan is the highest point, is rich in gold quartz, a Tientsin native-paper states that a number of Shantung officials in Peking have obtained the necessary permission from the Shangpu to develop the Langhushan, or Wolf and Tiger mountain gold deposits, the funds needed for the purchase of crushing and other machinery to be advanced by the Provincial Government of Shantung.

A Peculiar Request.

The "Universal Gazette" states that Viceroy Chou Fu of Nanking has sent a telegram to Peking asking the Emperor to issue an edict commanding H.E. Tuan Fang, Governor-designate of Hunan, to hasten his departure from Soochow for Ch'angsha, the capital of Hunan province. As Hunan is within the Viceregal jurisdiction of H.E. Chang Chih-tung, a request like the above to the Throne should, properly speaking, be preferred by Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and not by the Viceroy of the Liangkang, who has no official connection with the Governorship of Hunan province.

The Bund Murder.

The same paper states that a report is in circulation in the settlements to the effect that the Municipal Council of the International Settlement have sent a dispatch to the Russian Consul-General demanding that the Russian sailors guilty of the recent murder on the Bund shall

be handed back to the Municipal authorities to stand trial before an open Court, composed of a special tribunal, where everyone, Chinese and foreigner, may attend.

27th December.

The Bund Murder.

Up to yesterday there has been no reply received from the Russian Consul-General by Yuan Taotai with reference to the latter's repeated demands for the persons of the Russian sailors guilty of the murder of Chou Sêng-yu. This has aroused the ire of the Chinese community here, especially the Ningpo portion of it, to an unprecedented degree, who regard the uncourteous attitude of the Russian authorities as a deliberate insult to the Taotai and through him the whole nation. We now understand that Yuan Taotai has telegraphed to the Waiwupu requesting that Board to ask the Russian Minister to instruct the Russian authorities in Shanghai to accede to the just demands of the Chinese population of Shanghai.

The Ten-year Sentence of Wan Fu-hua.

All the Chinese newspapers write sarcastically about the recent sentence of ten years' imprisonment and hard labour upon Wan Fu-hua, the man who drew a revolver on the person of Wang Chih-ch'un, the cashiered ex-Governor of Kuangsi, a few weeks ago. The gist of the criticisms is that there seem to be two kinds of justice in China, one for Chinese and one for foreigners. A case in point amongst many others is quoted in proof, namely, the one in which some foreign bluejackets were the other day guilty of deliberately throwing into the river a Chinese at Canton, thereby causing the latter's death; the sentence on the actual delinquents being the ridiculously lenient one of only one year's incarceration, whereas in the case of the miserable Wan Fu-hua the mere drawing out of his revolver on the cashiered ex-Governor Wang Chih-ch'un has brought upon the former the unprecedented and unheard-of penalty of ten years' imprisonment with hard labour. Even according to the laws of this country, which are notoriously severe and harsh, the penalty on a person meditating murder, but unsuccessfully, the intended victim having sustained no injury or wound, is one hundred blows with the large bamboo and banishment to a distance of 3,000 li, for the period of three years—a decided difference between this and ten years' imprisonment in the Municipal gaol of Shanghai, an institution regarded by the average native here with dread owing to its stern and rigid rules. Finally there is a general feeling which is getting stronger and stronger, as such cases continue to arise, that foreign Consuls always do their best to protect their nationals from the consequences of their delinquencies vis-à-vis Chinese complainants, while mandarins seem to take a delight in inflicting as heavy punishments as they can upon their fellow-countrymen whenever the latter stand in the position of defendants vis-à-vis the foreigner. Yet foreigners complain that they are hated as a rule by Chinese! In former times the populace were generally friendly while mandarins were anti-foreign; now-a-days with cases like those quoted above and with the latest phase of the Bund murder by Russian sailors, one can hardly wonder that this anti-foreign feeling has been transmitted from the Mandarins to the populace, plus con-

tempt of the invertebrate and weak-kneed mandarins. Those who have had an education and especially those who have had the benefits of a foreign education understand that all this is due to the weakness of China, the Government of which has, in consequence, had to submit to bullying and coercion, but the average, unread native, especially those in the inland towns and cities, do not understand these hence their readiness now-a-days to ill treat foreigners they see amongst them because the compatriots of this foreigners "bull-doze" the formers' nationals in the treaty ports.

The New Chinese Minister to Corea.

H. E. Tsêng Kuang-chu'an—known in London as Lord Kingeast Tseng—had his farewell audience of the Throne on Sunday and was expected to leave Peking for Seoul yesterday forenoon.

28th December.

The Recent Émence at Hankow.

With reference to the recent trouble (which nearly rose to the importance of a popular émeute) between a large number of Chinese hongcs, dealing in skin, hides and other export products, in Hankow, and the two German firms of Arnhold, Karberg, and Co., and Carlowitz and Co., wherein the native hongcs demand over Tls. 130,000 from the German firms for goods supplied them through their respective compradores, one of whom had committed suicide, while the other had absconded, as already reported, we now learn from Hankow that it is reported—with what amount of truth we are unable to say—that the German firms in question have consented to pay Tls. 100,000 on the understanding that bygoncs be bygoncs and trade, so far interrupted, is allowed to continue in its normal course. We also understand that in reply to a petition, conjointly signed by over one hundred Chinese hongcs, setting forth their side of the case, Viceroy Chang Chih-tung wrote in his Rescript that "since in all cases where foreigners have been plaintiffs the Chinese authorities invariably do their best to force the Chinese debtors to pay what they owe to the foreign plaintiffs, so he (the Viceroy) sincerely hoped the Consuls of all foreign firms would also do their best to see justice dealt out with impartiality and Chinese creditors get their dues, thereby wisely directing the channels of trade to flow smoothly, without check or hindrance." His Excellency also asks in his Rescript, if foreign firms be allowed to decline to be bound by their compradores' contracts with Chinese hongcs, what is to be done in the future when Chinese are debtors of foreigners? Finally, the Hankow Customs Taotai, Shang, is instructed to convey his Excellency's sentiments as quoted above to the German Consul at Hankow, with the earnest hope that the matter under review be impartially and justly settled without delay.

The Landslip at Chinkiang.

It is reported from Chinkiang that only between fifty and sixty persons were killed or injured by the landslip on the 23rd instant at that port, and that the first report of over two hundred being killed or wounded in the catastrophe is an exaggeration.

The Viceroy of the Two Kuang Provinces.

A Canton dispatch states that H. E. Tsên Ch'un-huên, Acting Viceroy of the Two Kuang (Liangkuang) provinces, left Kueilin, the provincial capital of Kuang-

si, on the 7th instant for the city of Wuchou, on the West River, and arrived outside its walls on the 15th idem, entering the city on the next day. His Excellency is to pass the winter in Wuchou and will direct the military operations against the insurgents from that city, for the present. It is also reported that it is still the same old story with the arrival of the new Governor, H. E. Li Ching-hsi. In other words, the Viceroy and the new Governor cannot work in harmony. Such being the case, the prospects of the insurgents are brighter than it would be were the two highest officials of the province united and cordially working together.

H.E. Tuan Fang.

Governor-designate of Hunan province, who has been, during the past fortnight, in Hangchow, engaged in investigating certain charges made by Censors in Peking against Ch'ang En, the Tartar General of Hangchow, has returned to Soochow and will probably leave that city for Hunan via Shanghai on or about the 6th proximo.

29th December.

On the Alert.

It is reported in local mandarin circles that owing to the persistent rumours which have reached the ears of the Shanghai Taotai to the effect that the crews of the interned Russian ships Askold and Grosvoii seem to be preparing to take French leave with their vessels in order to join the Baltic fleet, strict orders have been issued to Commanders of Chinese war vessels in harbour and at Woosung to be prepared to prevent all attempts on the part of the Russian ships to leave Shanghai. Yuan Taotai has also, we learn, written to the Commissioner of I. M. Customs to instruct the Harbour Master and his staff to keep a watchful eye on the movements of the Russians at Pootung, and also to find out how much more extra coal than would be absolutely necessary for cooking, heating, and lighting purposes each day has been lately, or is being taken on by the Russian cruiser and destroyer in question. It is, however, considered that with the vigilance and steps that are being taken by the Chinese authorities to prevent any such contretemps, the Russians will find it rather difficult to accomplish the design that rightly, or wrongly, has been attributed to them.

A Serious Loss.

It is stated here that the losses suffered by W. Ching-chang in the recent land subsidence in Chinkiang in the shape of demolished buildings, sunken goods, and bunding are valued at not less than Tls. 180,000.

Progress.

We learn from a letter from Ch'ang-chou, the native city of H. E. Sheng Kung-pao, that his Excellency and a certain Taotai named Liu Pao-liang, also of that city, have made arrangements for the establishment of two girls' schools there. One will be a primary school, to be located in Chouhsienhsiang street, in an annexe of his Excellency's family residence, and the other a high school, to be situated near the West-gate. They are not to be free schools, as fifty cents a month will be demanded as school fees for each attendant of the primary school, and eighty cents per mensem for each scholar at the high school.

To Encourage Home Manufactures.

The "Sinwén-pao" states that Acting Governor Chou, of Kiangsi province, has sent an official to Shanghai to purchase machinery for the making of cigarettes, in order to counteract the immense sales of imported cigarettes that come from Shanghai. It is also stated that the tobacco produced in the Juichin district of Kiangsi province is very good and similar to the flavour of imported tobacco. The new Cigarette Manufactory will be in Nanch'ang, the capital of Kiangsi province.

FIRES.

The holiday has not passed off without its fires, though the bell did not ring out till about 8 p.m. on Monday. When it came the blaze was a big one. It broke out at No. 24, Chekiang Road, in a tobaccoist's shop, in the upper storey. The flames spread rapidly and involved Nos. 25, 23, 34, 35, 36, 833, 834, and 835 Chekiang Road. All of these were completely burnt out, and Nos. 32 and 836 were damaged by fire and water. Nos. 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48, Hoihow Road, were also destroyed and No. 42 damaged. The houses were the property of Messrs. E. D. Assoon & Co. and we understand that they were fully insured. All the fire companies turned out and were kept busy for an hour or more. The Mihholoongs, in whose district the fire was, did not leave till after 11 p.m.

After midnight there was another alarm for a fire in Sinza Road. It was a small affair in the cookhouse of a one-storey house and was quickly extinguished. The Mihholoongs put on the only stream.

Two small Chinese houses in an alleyway behind Chefoo and Chekiang Roads were burnt out by a fire which occurred about one o'clock yesterday morning. Several streams were laid on and the flames were easily extinguished.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CHURCHES.

Shanghai weather is usually at its best at Christmas time, and this year has been no exception to the rule. The weather was glorious—a cloudless sky, and just enough crispness in the air to remind us that autumn was past. We did indeed hear a few homesick ones sigh for snow, but they were the exception in the universal atmosphere of content which prevailed. The ships in the harbour looked very gay with their masts, funnels and upperworks arrayed in green—the good old Christmas green. Under such perfect conditions it was not surprising that the churches were crowded. Top hats—which are, with rare exceptions only worn at weddings, funerals, and on Christmas day—were removed from their boxes, and frock coats were unpacked to grace their owner's persons, and we never remember having seen so many of either in evidence as on this Christmas day. After the rush which always precedes the festival the town seemed strangely quiet, but this was only as viewed in the streets, since nearly every home had a share in the general festivities.

Christmas falling on a Sunday naturally robbed it of a great many of its usual features. The Christmas paper hunt had to be postponed till Boxing day.

THE CATHEDRAL.

The Christmas services started with a celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 a.m., at which there were about 100 communicants. The chancel was simply but effectively decorated with mountain ash, evergreen, bamboos and poinsettia. Christmas day usually brings a number of people to church, but the congregation which assembled at morning prayers must have been a record one. The Cathedral was quite packed, and late comers had the greatest difficulty in finding seats. The service opened with the hymn "Christians awake, salute the happy morn." The choir which has improved wonderfully of late, really surpassed itself on this occasion, and no small credit is due to Messrs. Lanning and Moule, who presided at the organ in turns. Stainer's Te Deum was exquisitely rendered, as was also the anthem taken from Handel's "Messiah." The Rev. A. J. Walker preached from St. Luke II, 7. His sermon, though short, was straight and to the point. The service concluded with "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," and there was afterwards another celebration of the Holy Communion.

The children's service was held in the Cathedral instead of in the Church room. The children were invited to bring offerings of toys to be sent to the C. M. S. at Ningpo. This novel idea quite took their fancy, and the younger members of the congregation came to church laden with presents for the less fortunate Chinese children. Carols were sung during the service, in which the youngsters joined lustily. Evening prayer was held as usual at 6 p.m. The Cathedral was again well filled. Appropriate hymns were sung and also another suitable anthem. At the conclusion of the service, instead of a sermon the choir gave a selection of carols, which were much appreciated. They were mostly old favourites which all Englishmen know from their youth up, and the congregation was therefore able to join in. Collections were taken at each service for the general Fund of the Cathedral, and during the day no less than \$640, a Christmas record, was contributed.

UNION CHURCH.

Union Church celebrated Christmas with a heartiness and effectiveness which must have helped to fix the greatness of the event it commemorates on the minds of both old and young. The Church had been beautifully and tastefully decorated by Mrs. Edward Wheen. Over the great arch above the pulpit a text appeared in white letters on a red ground. The effect was very striking. Similar texts followed the curves of the smaller arches at each side of the pulpit; while another ran the length of the gallery. The windows and pillars were festooned with ropes of evergreen, and on the capitals of the pillars the red berries of the sacred bamboo gave the touch of Christmas colour supplied at home by the holly. Around the pulpit were groups of poinsettias, producing a very pleasing effect.

Christmas hymns were sung at the services, the old indispensable favourites, and the Rev. C. E. Darwent preached Christmas sermons from the texts. "I am the root and offspring of David and the bright, the morning star;" and "Mary kept all these sayings pondering them in her heart." At the close of the evening service the choir gave very beautifully: "O thou that tellest" (Handel), "Like silver lamps" (J. Barnby):

and "The Glory" (Handel), Mrs. Rothe and Mr. A. Lester sustaining the solos.

In the afternoon a service of unique interest was held in the Hall. It was a Christmas service arranged by the superintendent, Dr. Ferguson, in which the largest part was taken by the scholars themselves. And marvellously well did the young people acquit themselves. Parents and friends had been invited, and all felt touched and impressed as the bonny girls and boys told forth in song and recitation the sweet story of imperishable interest, how the Son of God came to earth to bless men. Mr. A. Dowie conducted the singing. Mr. J. M. D. Thomas presided at the organ. The following was the order of service:—

1. Hymn: "It came upon the midnight clear" ... SCHOOL.
2. Responsive Reading: Luke i. 46-55 ... SCHOOL.
3. Prayer: Rev. C. E. DARWENT, M.A.
4. Recitation: "Peace on Earth." ... Mrs. FERGUSON'S CLASS.
5. Hymn: "Long ago on Christmas day" ... Miss BEACH'S and Mr. PUGH'S CLASSES.
7. Recitation: "When He appears" ... AMY BOYD.
8. ADDRESS: Rev. H. L. W. BEVAN, M.A.
9. Hymn: "Oh come all ye faithful" ... SCHOOL.
10. Recitation: "Glad Christmas" ... MAY KEILY.
11. Violin Solo ... Miss LILY GOULD.
12. Song: "What little ones can do" ... PRIMARY CLASS.
13. Organ Solo: ... Mr. J. M. D. THOMAS. Collection.
14. Song: "Shine Glorious Daystar" ... Miss SKINNER'S CLASS.
15. Recitation: "The Bethlehem Shepherds" FLORENCE FERGUSON.
16. Hymn: "All hail the power of Jesus' name" ... SCHOOL.
17. Prayer: Mr. W. S. RIDGE, B.A.

A collection was made for the school funds. And an announcement was also made that in addition to supporting two beds in Dr. Boone's hospital the school would now undertake the support of a boy in the new College of the London Mission, at a cost of somewhere about \$80 or \$90.

ST. JOSEPH'S, FRENCH CONCESSION.

The Christmas festivities commenced with a service at midnight on Saturday. On Christmas day low masses were held at 6, 7, and 8 a.m. At 10 a.m. solemn high mass was celebrated. The service was chanted to Gounod's mass No. 3 in C[♯] Major by Father Merino of the Augustinian Mission. The Credo was taken from Gounod's 5th mass, and was beautifully sung by the choir. For the offertory Feltz's "To-day Christ is born to us" was chanted. About 300 persons attended each of the services, and at the ten o'clock mass about sixty bluejackets from English, American, and German warships were present. At 4 p.m. the service of the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was held.

The Church was decorated both inside and out. Over the doors were red brocade stars with the word "Noel" round them. The nave was hung with crimson banners and streamers and at the north altar there was a representation of the scene at Bethlehem. The chancel and altar were gay with flowers, sago palms and evergreens.

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR.

The usual Sunday services were held, and in addition there was a celebration of the Holy Communion (choral) after matins. The Rev. Fleming James preached in the morning. In the evening there was no sermon, but carols were sung after evening prayer. The bass and tenor sections of the choir were very powerful.

CHRISTMAS AT THE HOTELS.

The Astor House.

On Christmas Eve and again on Christmas night the Astor House dining rooms were crowded to their utmost capacity. There was music on each occasion, and on Saturday especially it was a very merry gathering entertained in the most enjoyable Yule fashion. There were 302 diners served that night and 310 on Sunday. Preparations are now being made for the New Year.

The Hotel des Colonies.

The dining room was transformed on Saturday night to a palace of light and music, and it was packed with merriment. Many late bookers were disappointed as usual. The full town band, under Signor Valenza, seemed to catch the spirit of the time and were at their liveliest and best. When dinner was over, who should arrive but Santa Claus, who lost part of his countenance but not his kindness in endeavouring to return a gracious bow. He seemed to know everyone and certainly had presents for all, with three special ones for those who had been lucky in the lottery. It was a night to remember, and one worthy to fill the place, as far as it can be filled out here, of Christmas Eve at home.

THE "LAND OF NOD."

There was a good deal of sleepiness represented on the stage, but none to be noticed in the audience, during the performance of the Christmas entertainment by the children of Union Church Sunday School in the Church Hall on Friday afternoon. Acting seems to come naturally to children, and perhaps to Shanghai children more readily than to those at home, where confidence and self-possession are not so ordinary. The "Land of Nod" was brought back by Dr. Ferguson, the School Superintendent, from America, the last place one would imagine so drowsily named a piece to come from. In point of fact, and in despite of its name, there is a good deal of "hustle" about the cantata, on the part of such old friends as Mother Goose, Dame Fortune, Jack O'Dreams, and Prince Charming, not to mention fairies and hobgoblins, and also newcomers as the King of the Land of Nod, and the sleepy little folk whom he entertains. It is a pretty little play, and was very brightly and cleverly done, the youngsters generally speaking their lines with great clearness and bringing out the points with intelligent elocution. The dresses were handsome and there was a graceful dance introduced; as a preliminary and also as a finale to the main entertainment, a chorus was given. The second was a very quaint action song with a pleasant melody, and was sung by a party of little "mothers" and still tinier "small folk" on whom it had to be impressed

that bed-time had come. An encore was demanded and given. The entertainment would not have been complete without the appearance on the platform of the Rev. C. E. Darwent, who in his original way, managed, among other things to convey the thanks of those present to the ladies who arranged the entertainment—Mrs. Griffin, Miss May Jansen, Miss Skinner, Miss Black, and the (2) Misses Law—to Mr. Roland Macdonald, who had disguised himself as the King of Nod, and to Dr. Ferguson. The cheers of the audience brought a kind of promise that the entertainment will be repeated.

A RECORD OF THANKS TO A DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN.

The following grateful notice of the Hangchow Hospital appeared in a recent issue of the "Sin Wen Pao":—

My fifth daughter, who is married into the Ho family of Changsha, Hunan, was the year before last afflicted with a film covering the eyes which caused the loss of sight. In the 5th moon of last year (June, 1903) she came to Chékiang and the Kuang Chi Hospital and placed herself under the charge of Doctor Liu Ming-chih. He performed an operation on the right eye and extracting the film restored sight to that eye. In the 10th moon of this year (November, 1904) the left eye was operated upon and, the film being extracted, her left eye was also able to see. During the operation my daughter did not feel the slightest pain, the whole operation not lasting more than five minutes. Really a wonderful feat. From that time all impurities having been abstracted from the eyes they have regained their clearness of sight and all this she owes to the skill of Dr. Liu Ming-chih. Dr. Liu Ming-chih is a native of Ningpo and is one of the English Doctor Duncan Moir's high-class students from whom the latter obtained the true essence of medical skill, and for which we are all eternally thankful.

LI YU-WEI of Hunan.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Campaign with Kuropatkin. By Douglas Story. Fully illustrated from photographs taken by the author. In cloth, 8vo., 301 pp. London: T. Werner Laurie. 1904.

Letters from John Chinaman.—Sixth Impression. In paper, pocket 8vo., pp. 63. London: R. Brimley Johnson. 1904. (6d. net.)

CALENDARS, ETC., RECEIVED.

From Messrs. J. W. Gande & Co., the general managers, a couple of useful calendars, with pictures of the establishment, issued by the Shanghai Brewery Co.

From Messrs. Reuter, Bröckelmann & Co., the agents, a most useful date-book in English issued by the Aachen and Munich Fire Insurance Co.

From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co., the agents, a calendar with a fine portrait of Thos. Carlyle, and a blotting-book, issued by the Scottish Union and National Insurance Co., whose funds are stated to be 5½ millions.

From Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., agents, a pretty and useful calendar issued by the Royal Insurance Co., whose total funds are over £12,500,000.

A SERIOUS LANDSLIP AT CHINKIANG.

HEAVY LOSSES AND MANY DEATHS.

A very serious landslip occurred at Chinkiang last Friday afternoon, a large piece of the river bank, with godowns on it full of merchandise belonging to Y. Ching Chong, being swallowed up by the river, and an unknown number of Chinese who were on the property or in boats alongside it being drowned in the catastrophe. The site of the accident is marked "Godowns" in the excellent map of Chinkiang published in the new volume of "Decennial Reports" of the Customs; it is bounded on the west by the easternmost of the three mouths of the Grand Canal, a creek known as Ho Hua Tang; and on the east by the property of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, which, being banded, is still holding its own, but is in a very precarious condition. It appears that the river bed has been gradually silting up lately opposite Golden Island, Jardine Matheson & Co.'s property, Garlic Hill, and the front of the British Concession; and the force of the current has been thrown against the bank below the Foreign Settlement, which it has undermined. The loss is a very heavy one, and it is to be hoped that the banded property next to it will be able to resist the current.

A VISIT TO THE PEKING SYNDICATE WORKS IN HONAN.

December, 1904.

Little has so far been published in regard to the great work now proceeding in Central China under the auspices of this, the first Society formed in London for the prosecution of mining and railway enterprise in the Celestial Empire, and so it was with but small knowledge of what the Syndicate was doing that we set out to pay a visit to the works. The interior of the province of Honan, formerly a journey of months from the nearest Treaty Port—six weeks by rivers and canals from Tientsin to Weihsifu, situated at the head of navigation of the Wei river—here a small stream about the size of the Soochow Creek at Jessfield and with, in winter, little over three feet of water in its channel—and still farther by cart from Hankow to Kaifangfu and Chinghua—is now accessible from two sides by the new King-Han railway, (formerly Lu-Han, now King-Han, alias Pe-Han).

From Hankow the south bank of the Yellow River, now being bridged, is reached in two days; crossing the river which, in favourable weather, takes from four to five hours and, with bad weather, and when the current runs strong, may take twenty-four, a ride north of forty miles by construction train brings us to the point where the Peking Syndicate's new railway crosses the Pe-Han at right angles; the point of junction being situated outside the lofty walls of the old-world city of Hsinhsianghsien. The Syndicate's railway, just completed by the contractors, S. Pearson & Son, Ltd., is here struck in about its centre. The line runs east and west, or, more accurately, W. S. W. and E. N. E. and is ninety miles in length; the eastern terminus is at Taok'ou, a village on the Wei river and the western at Pashanhsien on the borders of Shansi, both termini lying within the province of Honan. The raison d'être of the line is the carriage of mineral from the coal and iron fields of Shansi to navigable water, and so the convenient shipping port of Taok'ou has been selected, on the banks of the Wei river, about thirty miles below Weihsifu. The western terminus at Pashan abuts on the great Shansi coal-field, where this dips into and under the Honan plain and where numerous extensive native workings are in existence, from which the railway, pending the output of coal from the works of the Syndicate proper, now derives its main source of traffic.

Entering the Peking Syndicate railway train at Hsinhsianghsien, a two hours' ride in a comfortable heated car, takes the visitor to the village of Chiaotso, where is the station, eight miles this side of Pashan, whence a half-mile walk across fields now sprouting with the young winter wheat, takes the visitor to "Jamieson" as the new Settlement created by the Syndicate, has been named, after the indefatigable resident Director of the Syndicate, who has his headquarters in Tientsin. It is at "Jamieson" that the first shaft is now being sunk in a plain which slopes south from the Shansi mountains to the banks of the Yellow River—a sandy loess plain which stretches in interminable monotony away north, past Peking to the foot of the Mongolian mountains and east to Tientsin, Taku, and the shallows bordering the Chihli gulf—

upon which the inexhaustible loess deposits are still steadily encroaching. The plain of the Yellow River here forms a bright or gulf of level land which runs westwards into and between the ranges of mountains that bound the river valley on its north and south limits, and connects with the great Honan-Chihli flatland on the east. The "bight" terminates in the mountainous isthmus that joins the highlands of Shansi to those of Honan and through which the Yellow River has found its easiest way to the sea. The railroad thus runs by the level land up to the head of the bight in the prefecture of Chinghua; the heavy cost of carrying it farther west through the mountains and on to the famous coal-fields of Shansi proper not having as yet been provided for.

In selecting "Jamieson" as the seat of their initial operations, the Syndicate engineers were guided by the necessity of finding a free field which should provide them with a wide area for mining coal on "western" lines undisturbed by Chinese workings. As we have seen, at Pashan and beyond, extensive Chinese workings are in existence and the ground is honeycombed with native burrows and abandoned shafts, abandoned from inability to cope with the water which overwhelms them as soon as a depth of 300 to 400 feet is reached. In thus commencing work a few miles lower down the valley, the Syndicate engineers have to go deeper to reach the same seam on which, higher up (i.e., to the west) the Chinese have been working from time immemorial in its more easily accessible outcrop, and have accumulated a vast supply of coal which the transport, by means of carts and barrows, could only furnish to a limited area of the surrounding country, but which the new railway is now gradually distributing to more distant places and so slowly reducing the accumulation in Chinghua, which is estimated at over one million tons. The demand for coal in the populous villages of the great plain is practically unlimited in this cold winter climate, and only the difficulty and expense of procuring this prime necessity drives the people to supply its place with the soon-exhausted millet stalk. Hence the boon that railways afford to China's millions in this one respect is inestimable apart from their other well-known advantages; it is interesting to see how prompt are the Chinese to avail themselves of every modern innovation brought to their doors. Not only are new hotels going up alongside the stations, but walled-in coal depôts are numerous at every shipping place, whence the surrounding villages are supplied with coal brought by the railway from the native mines in Chinghua. The coal is a somewhat friable anthracite, but given sufficient draught, burns well in open grates, throwing out great heat; the new engines of the railway have furnaces adapted to burn this anthracite, the old engines being supplied with bituminous coal from the neighbouring prefecture of Changteh, which is situated to the north of Weihsifu on the margin of the great Chihli plain, where this abuts on the Shansi mountains, which wall it in on the west.

Walking from Chiaotso, going north up the plain, which here slopes at an easy gradient from the foot-hills of Shansi down to the Yellow River, we reach the new mining camp and receive a warm welcome from its hospitable chief, Mr. Alexander Reid, the engineer upon whom devolves the responsibility of carrying the great enterprise to a successful issue. The "camp" surprised

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CLEAR SKIN

us not a little; solid well-built bungalows of brick and stone, in roomy compounds, house the European staff, furnished with every comfort; many of the residents having their families with them. "Dress" dinner parties, hot baths, and electric lighting quickly dispel one's preconceived ideas of a temporary camp, and it is evident that to "Jamieson" the Peking Syndicate has come to stay. The works, mines, and railway employ in all some twenty-five European engineers, in addition to a staff of 3,000 Chinese; the Settlement occupies 1,000 mow of land (about 150 acres) and wide streets have been laid out, lined with cottages for the coolies and with shops which provide the usual Chinese luxuries, not omitting hot-bath establishments, barbers, and massage. In the centre is the great shaft, upon which depends the fortune of the enterprise and alongside which are grouped the sheds containing rows of great boilers which supply steam to the hoisting and winding machinery and to the mammoth pumps which the unwelcome affluence of water underground, and which contrasts curiously with the dry powdery soil of the surface stratum, unfortunately necessitates.

At the time of our visit, in November, the main shaft had reached a depth of 400 feet and, upon being sunk through a stratum of vertically cleaved sandstone which overlies the coal, had become flooded with water; the sandstone being not only by nature porous, but here full of fissures as well. The inflow now amounts to 20,000 gallons an hour, with which a powerful Worthington pump of 100,000 gallons hourly capacity, has no difficulty in coping. The shaft is lined with a massive wall of limestone blocks, dovetailed and cemented together, which will, when completed, probably of itself restrain the bulk of the intrusive water. The water is very pure, of a temperature of sixty degrees, as the Chinese say "warm in winter and cold in summer," and no slight boon to the community in this parched region. Advantage of its presence is being taken to form a large concrete-lined reservoir, sufficient to supply the needs of both the railway and the mine in the dry season, while the Chinese have been quick to utilise the surplus effluent stream for the puddling of the earth for their adobe houses and for the irrigation of their gardens.

The "surface" engineer, under whose charge are the surface works, the boilers and machinery, and the electric plant, is Mr. Alfred Gaston, well-known to many friends on the Yangtze River as whilom engineer of the s. s. Pioneer, now H. M. S. Kinsha. His post is no sinecure; the Chinese under him are nearly all local coolies trained to the work, requiring constant supervision by night as well as by day; the adaptability of the Chinese coolie is well shown here, where he has to manage ponderous machinery, and by carelessness may overwind and do infinite damage to life and property; still he has to be watched, and in keeping him up to the mark the European engineer is never free from a great responsibility, and must always be present on the spot or close at hand. As time goes on and coal is produced with automatic regularity, the routine will be more simple than now where changing systems have to be organised; this happy time, it is hoped, will come in February, when the shaft should reach the coal seam at an estimated depth of 600 to 700 feet below the surface. This mining for an unseen and not actually verified product is

a fine example of scientific faith; for although the geology of the region shows that the coal must underlie the sandstone now being pierced, yet its existence on this particular spot has not been proved by sight or touch.

"Jamieson" is, as we have seen, a settlement full of life and progress, although barely more than two years in existence; its all-pervading ruler, Mr. Reid, is already regretting that he has not taken up more land than the original 1,000 mow, but prices now are prohibitive, so much has the vast outlay of the Syndicate enriched the surrounding farmers and villagers. An unforeseen expenditure of two million dollars in a hidden corner of this poverty-stricken region is like the touch of a fairy wand to these poor people; yet, it is said, no more mining concessions will be given; the officials are going to work the mines themselves in future; we know what this means! Their idea is not to join with Europeans in finding additional employment for the surplus population, but to keep wages down so as to have a submissive proletariat at their call: if the population increases beyond the means of subsistence, there are the ever-recurring natural calamities of flood and drought to keep them down; as the great Li is authentically reported to have remarked, shrugging his shoulders upon hearing of the destruction of 400,000 people by the bursting of the Yellow river dyke near Kai-fengfu. "Heaven provides these remedies for over-population," and so refused to take the improvement of the river seriously in hand. The work achieved and in progress at "Jamieson" must be seen to be believed, and the work in contemplation is still greater. Mr. Reid is justly sanguine of the future of the enterprise, seeing the excellent quality and the inexhaustible supply of the mineral and the equally almost inexhaustible local demand, together with the low price at which it can be placed on the market (about three taels in Weihsui and six taels delivered in Tientsin); and Mr. Reid is no novice; as a manager of collieries in North Britain, and as chief engineer of the Kent coal-fields, he has gained his experience; here in Honan he is determined to make a great success and will leave no stone unturned to achieve it. The superintendence of the railway, which is now about being turned over to the Syndicate by the contractors, will shortly fall to his charge, when mines and railway will all be under one management. Meanwhile the latter is still in the hands of the contractors' engineer, Mr. Bourne (brother of Judge Bourne), who has a colony of his own, comprising chiefly the contractors' representatives, at the present railroad at Chiaotso.

This railway, in its present limited extent, is sure of an active mineral and passenger traffic, for which ample preparation has been made. Eighty-three miles are now open, from Taok'ou, on the Wei, to Chiaotso, the village adjoining the new Settlement of "Jamieson"; eight miles' extension westwards are about completed and will be open to traffic in February; the railroad will then have reached Pashan, a town situated two miles east of Chinghuasheng, the chief city of the prefecture and centre of the present mining region. Already strings of carts bring the coal thence to be laden on the railway at Chiaotso, in quantities which the present rolling-stock is insufficient to deal with. But the present rolling-stock is being fast supplemented by arrivals of fresh trucks and engines,

conveyed from Tientsin by way of the Grand Canal and the river Wei. At the Taok'ou terminus we saw being set up six new powerful engines and tenders built in England, weighing ninety tons each, adapted for heavy mineral traffic; their furnaces having sufficient grate area to burn the local anthracite; the coal waggons came from Germany. Here, too, a dock has been excavated and steam cranes erected to facilitate the transshipment of the coal outwards, as well as of supplies and general cargo inwards, by way of the Wei river.

On the map this railway appears like a short line "in the air," but a closer inspection of the map will show that, apart from its present utility, the line is one which, if carried through as it should be, has the possibility in store of becoming one of the great trunk lines of China. For, as far as it goes, its alignment is that of the one great highway in China from east to west. For, from whichever point we start to penetrate from the coast westward, we are arrested by an almost boundless sea of mountains which, apart from the plains of Kiangsu and Chihli, where these embrace the deltas of the Yangtze, the Yellow and the Peiho rivers cover the whole area of the eighteen provinces up into the great Tibetan tableland. But, as we have shown, in Honan a bight of level country penetrates west between the Shansi mountains in the north and the Kwenlun eastern extension south of the Yellow river, while coming from the west an inlet of the loess plains which fill the area of the Sian and Tungchou prefectures in Shensi, is advanced eastwards in the direction of the corresponding "bight," which has its termination in Chinghuasheng; these two stretches of level country are separated by a mountain isthmus, expensive to cross, but little over fifty miles in width, nothing in comparison with the continuous mountain chains north and south which effectually bar the road from any other starting point. Hence, to reach Hsianfu and Kansu, there is only this one direct cartroad which, after traversing the prefecture of Chinghua crosses the Yellow River and follows up its right bank to Hsian; and a railway following this route would command not alone the traffic of Shansi, Shensi, and Kansu, but likewise the trade of Central Asia and Chinese Turkestan which now takes the roundabout journey via Peking and Kulgan, outside the Great Wall by way of Kuei-huasheng (Kotokuku) and Ninghsia. The Peking Syndicate designed originally, it is said, to carry their line into Shansi and its great coalfields but shrank from the expense of the thirty-three-and-a-half miles' ascent of 2,500 feet by way of the gorge of the Tai river, which an extension north beyond Chinghuasheng would have necessitated.

The Syndicate naturally desire to prove the value of the Honan portion of their concession before making a farther outlay of capital to test that of remoter Shansi. Still, this fact does not affect the possibilities of the line when it is carried through to the West nor the possibilities in store for it, should it be prolonged similarly to the east to Puk'ou on the Yangtze, the town opposite Nanking, which has been proposed as a shipping port for the Syndicate's coal, more remunerative than Tientsin as being nearer the central markets of the empire. Should these schemes eventuate, then the present little line now "in the air" will form the nucleus of the great east and west trunk line of China, connecting

ing, as it will do, by means of the Shanghai-Nanking line with the great Commercial Metropolis "on the sea." The distance that the coal has to traverse for an export market by uncertain water carriage to Tientsin is much the same as it would be by rail to Nanking, viz., about 500 miles. Chinghuacheng is to-day a principal centre for Shansi produce, and the railway, when only completed to Pashan, will at once tap this traffic.

At Chiaotso and at Taokou repairing shops, store-godowns, and spacious engine houses have been erected, and at Chiaotso are the fine and perfectly up-to-date general offices of the Company, as well as comfortable bungalows for the European staff; on the stone basement of the building, which contains the general offices and the drawing rooms we were amused to see cut the quotations—one at each extremity of the building—"Nihil sine labore." "Desipere in loco." All the work is exceedingly substantial and well finished. The lighting is by electricity and the houses are warmed by heated fresh air from the outside traversing the walls. We may add that, on the railway, the new cars are being fitted with the Westinghouse brake; the roadway struck us as being exceptionally smooth and well ballasted in comparison with the Pe-han line and so the trains are able to be run at high speed. At present there is only one train each way daily and ti stops at each of twelve stations on the line; about five hours being occupied over the eighty-three miles from Chiaotso to Taokou. Altogether the works are a fine example of British enterprise in a new-centra, far removed from any Treaty Port, and well repay the trouble of visiting them and where such a hospitable reception as we received awaits the visitor. We must not conclude without allusion to the climate of this favoured region which, to credit the residents, approaches perfection. The summer heat is not excessive and is dry, the natural drainage and the slope of the ground at once carrying off the surface water, while the proximity of the mountains, which arrest the monsoon clouds, appears to ensure a sufficient annual rainfall. These same mountains protect the country from the bitter north-west winds and accompanying dust storms which form the drawback to the otherwise fine, healthy climate of Tientsin and Peking. Thus, at Jamieson, a cold, frosty, bracing winter, tempered by almost perpetual sunshine, and the "lenium ventorum commodissimus flatus," of which Pliny wrote at the time that the Han dynasty had its seat of empire in Homan, and by which the climate of all China is more or less distinguished.

A. J. L.

YUNNANFU TO THE COAST.

A SEQUEL TO "BETWEEN TWO CAPITALS."

BY ARCHIBALD LITTLE.

Concluded.

Haiphong, the port of Hanoi and the centre of outer communication by rail and water of the Tongking delta generally, is distant 100 miles from the latter city and is reached in four hours' time. The railway line, whether proceeding north or south, equally leaves Hanoi by way of the great bridge over the Red River and

runs the whole way through the paddy-fields of the delta, with the high mountains (5,000 feet) that mark the frontier between Tongking and the Chinese province of Kuangtung visible in the distance, on the left. In the foreground of the mountains, as Haiphong is approached, the curiously rugged low ridge of limestone pinnacles which extends into the bay of Along, and there forms the group of picturesque rocky islets, which make this bay famous, stands out conspicuous. The town of Haiphong is built on the right bank of the Cua-cam river, a stream fed from the Thannoi mountains on the north, near the Canton border; and is connected with the Red River by cross channels. The whole country here, on the ocean edge of the delta, is a vast low-lying swamp, from which the site of the city has been painfully reclaimed and which is still intersected by wide tidal creeks. The river at this point is about a quarter-mile wide and fifty to sixty feet deep, and affords good anchorage; at the mouth, however, which is fifteen miles distant, a sand-bar limits the draft of vessels trading to Haiphong to eighteen feet, but by dredging it is intended to increase the water to twenty-four feet. Although Haiphong boasts only some 20,000 inhabitants, as against the 100,000 or more attributed to Hanoi, yet the former struck us as the busier place—more movement in its streets and more business at its wharves—due, of course, to its being a sea-port. The town is well laid out, in wide streets; as in Hanoi every provision has been made for future expansion; the houses are well-built, the principal residences having ample gardens surrounding them. The residents of Haiphong, of whom nearly 1,000 are European, enjoy further the proximity of sea and mountain, and so possess an endless choice of summer resorts within the compass of an afternoon's drive on the excellent roads that surround the city.

After spending a day in Haiphong and enjoying the comparative freshness of the air there (mid-September) we embarked on board the "Marty" steamer, Hué, for Hongkong. Our passage through Tongking gave us but a glimpse of what the French are doing in this their great new colony, but with what we did see we were fairly astonished. When one considers that the French have had quiet possession of the country for barely fifteen years, the solid work that has been accomplished is truly surprising; no labour has been spared in opening up the country to colonisation by roads and railways and in rendering the cities healthy and attractive for residence. If, as is sometimes reproached, French colonies are overdone with "fonctionnaires," at least these are not idle; the main criticism of one coming from British colonies is, that too little is left to individual initiative and too great demands made upon "l'administration." Yet we learn from the admirable summary of Progress in Indo-China by "Pierre Padaran" (*) that at the end of 1900 there were already 650 European planters engaged in tropical plantations over an

(*) Les Possibilités Economiques de l'Indo-Chine. Paris, au siège du comité de l'Asie française, 19 Rue Bonaparte. pp. 124.—A most informing book and in small compass, and though it only carries us up to 1902, it is certainly the best short account of the topography and resources of the colony of Indo-China yet published.

area of 322,000 hectares, which is equal to the sum total of European plantations in the island of Ceylon, whilst in Upper Burma, acquired by us about the same period, so far there are none. The unoccupied mountain area open to colonisation in Indo-China is, however, infinitely greater than in either of the preceding countries; the total area of the colony being 817,000 square kilometres (314,000 square miles), of which practically the river deltas alone are populated. The terms offered to would-be colonists are extraordinarily favourable; while the French Administrators are now paying more attention to the outside world around them and are studying the methods of Java and Ceylon and profiting thereby. The "aélas" or drawbacks to the progress of the colony lie in the narrow spirit of the mother country—the Métropole—who would make of it a French preserve—by means of differential tariffs and by regulations tending to exclude all non-French elements, be they European or Asiatic, British or Chinese—from taking part in its development. Excessive transit dues are imposed on goods from Hongkong and Singapore destined for the hinterland of Yunnan, with the impracticable design of compelling such Hinterlander to draw their supplies from direct French sources. The monopoly of supply accorded to the mother country in the colony itself, enhances to residents the cost of most necessities and of all the luxuries of life, and so makes living dearer than in the neighbouring free colonies. On the other hand, it must be acknowledged that the "Métropole" spends money upon her colonial children with a lavish hand, and so is entitled to a special return; yet, while the population of France remains stationary, this exclusive policy must greatly retard the industrial development of Indo-China, a country which, forming as it does a link between the dense population of British India on the West and the teeming millions of China on the East, and with natural resources equal to either, should, in the nature of things, develop into one of the most productive countries, if not into the greatest entrepôt that the world has yet seen.

We cannot take our leave of Tongking without commending it to our fellow-residents in the Far East, nor without bearing grateful testimony to the courtesy we enjoyed at all hands during our brief visit. When the Yunnan railway is in running order, Tongking will be as well known as Japan, and then the climate of Yunnan will be found more bracing and, in summer especially, the air far drier and fresher than in Japan at that season. The total distance from Haiphong to Yunnanfu by the new line of rail is 853 kilometres, or 533 miles; so that, when it is completed Hongkong will be brought within less than a week of the Yunnan sanitarium and the delightful region of its great lakes.

The steamer Hué, on which we were now bound to Hongkong, via Pakhoi, Hoihow, and Kuangchowwan, turned out to be an old acquaintance, being one of the fine boats built by Chinese order, some sixteen years ago, to run between Formosa and the mainland. But how fallen from her high estate! She came out from the builders, Hawthorn, Leslie & Co. of Newcastle, as the Smith, while the Chinese christened her the Mei-shih, at which time her speed was fourteen knots and all her appointments first-class; she now steams ten knots only and her passenger quarters are cruelly dilapidated and ill-kept. On the third day out from Haiphong we put into the new

French port, situated on the mainland of the province of Canton, Kuangchowwan (=Canton Bay), and were much interested in visiting this new "free port" on Chinese territory and the destined rival to Hongkong.

The bay of Kuangchow forms one of the finest harbours in the world, whether for trade or defence. It is entirely landlocked, an island off the mouth admitting access through two narrow entrances: once inside, it furnishes an anchorage ground ten miles by three with a depth of water of ten fathoms. After traversing this wide expanse, the bay narrows at its northern end to an arm of the sea one to two miles in width, at the head of which is the embouchure of the Kambô or Gold River, which descends from the range that encloses the valley of the West River on the south and marks the limit of the territory ceded to the French in 1898. The land area of this territory covers some 317 square miles, and though the soil is sandy—much as at Pakhoi, situated on the opposite side of the Leichou peninsula, eighty miles to the West—the land is well cultivated and contains a population of 200,000 Chinese distributed in 800 villages. This new free port is under the administration of the Government of Indo-China, who are represented by a local resident, together with an ample administrative staff. As is customary with the French, in laying out their new acquisition, grand views have prevailed and the future greatness of the port has been amply foreseen; thus one inlet is relegated to a naval port, and here the warships lie at anchor, out of sight of the administrative and commercial ports.

These latter are also distinct and are established on opposite shores of the northern arm of the bay, across which, in bad weather, as at the time of our visit, communication is by no means easy. The administrative town is on the left, (treating this "arm" as the estuary of the Kam river) or east shore, and consists of the "Residence," the offices of the Administration and the dwellings of the administrative staff. It also includes a market with a small surrounding street of native shopkeepers. A jetty has been built, and the adjoining, mostly flat, country laid out in wide metalled, rectangular roads, now mostly grassgrown. This Settlement, known as Matché, has a most desolate, uninhabited appearance and, as it was there that we first landed, we received a decidedly unfavourable impression of the place; but it is only fair to state that it had been devastated by a typhoon in the early summer. On the opposite shore is the commercial Settlement and military station known as Fort Bayard, off which the "Hué" was anchored. We crossed the strait in a gale of wind and rain in one of the cockle-shell looking but solidly built and excellent sea-boats of the place. These sail well with a single Chinese lug and, being provided with a centre-board (which is inserted before the mast and close to the bow), sail remarkably close to the wind. The "invention" of the centre-board is usually credited to a naval lieutenant 100 years back only, but it appears to have been in use in China for over 1,000 years. At Hoihow, the "port" of Kuangchow in the island of Hainan, are to be found the best centre-board boats on the coast. Ships here lie in the open roadstead, off a flat sand-beach and communicate with the shore by means of these boats which, being flat-bottomed, are hauled up on the beach when not in use.

We found "Fort Bayard" a more lively place than is the "administrative capital;" still its liveliness is limited and only noticeable in comparison with the peaceful calm that reigns in Matché. We put ashore at this latter place a smart young Frenchman, a pillar of the Administration at Matché, a fellow-traveller who had been for a visit to Haiphong. We could hardly help envying him the retreat provided for him—a fine climate and excellent sea bathing,—and left him regretfully, "the world forgetting, by the world forgot."

Fort Bayard is built on ground that slopes to the sea, and, the buildings being less scattered than at Matché, has more the appearance of a town, and indeed of a well-built town. The chief buildings are spacious barracks for the considerable garrison of French and Annamite troops which is stationed here. The south coast of the Canton province, exposed to the China Sea and open to the monsoons, with mountains sheltering it on the North, is exceedingly healthy; the soil is light and porous and raised in low undulating swells well above the sea level. Consequently the station here provides an excellent change for troops enervated by the damp heat of Tonking. We were courteously shown over the men's barracks, which are in roomy detached buildings covering a large area of ground and affording them every comfort, not to say luxury. There is a really fine military club installed in a handsome two-storied building and open to all ranks, presented to the new colony by the all-pervading M. Doumer. This late Governor of Indo-China has left his mark everywhere; he would appear to have been a veritable "hustler"; to him is due the equilibrium established in the budget of Indo-China, the late Hanoi exhibition and the Yunnan railway; he appears to have been physically and mentally untirable, and we heard of his riding from Mêngtse to Yunnanfu in four days; the time by the usual stages being eleven. A new cathedral, with two towers, also adorns the Settlement, which otherwise consists of a street of Cantonese shops and a single French store, well provided and selling at the moderate prices which one expects to find in a "port franc." The genial proprietor, M. Champesteve, we heard referred to as "le colon," the one serious colonist so far of the new Hongkong.

From Kuangchowwan to Hongkong the distance is 237 miles on an E.N.E. course, and we reached our destination after a most interesting five days' coasting voyage. Our last visit to Hongkong had been in days before the grand foreshore reclamation scheme had been thought of, and we were accordingly not a little astonished at the appearance which the modern town of Victoria now presents; the magnificent new buildings, the crowded piles of new offices, the throngs in the streets and the traffic in the harbour contrasted marvellously with the lotus-eating lands we had been travelling through, and we felt more than ever enamoured of free trade and of free intercommunication for all alike. Hongkong raises an annual revenue of six million dollars, chiefly from land and excise taxes, and her emergence from the barbarism of Custom Houses is a fine object-lesson in Eastern Asia; in these days of protective tariffs and subsidised industries, we could wish that our Mother Country likewise might so arrange her revenue as to shake off the incubus of Custom Houses in toto, and so provide a still more striking object-lesson to her European and American

neighbours than does even her marvelously successful colony on the whilom barren islet of Hongkong.

A WOMAN'S VIEWS ABOUT THE WAR.

FROM THE "JAPAN DAILY ADVERTISER."

No. II.

Ten months have elapsed since the first shot was fired at Chemulpo, and since Japan put into effect the wording of the declaration she had made to her opponent, that she had broken off friendly relations, and reserved to herself the right to take independent action. During ten months her independent action has been followed by one success crowned by another; from position after position (to enter into occupation herself) she has driven out her formidable foe; and now, grimdest and deadliest of all her work—task of the most terrific magnitude—the storming of the most impregnable fortress in the world, bids fair to be soon accomplished; for with this last herculean feat, the capture of the 203-metre hill, it would not be too sanguine to expect the near fall of Port Arthur.

Humanity shudders to reflect on Past and Present: the dogged resistance to the deadly determination of attackers sworn to conquer; the long months of protracted carnage and slaughter over which Mercy wrings her hands in helplessness, and Pity weeps in anguish at her feet. The Past is past—the Dead have died—and Humanity trembles to contemplate the Future.

There are some who say that Russia will continue the struggle to the bitter end; that she will fight till she is victorious. Assertions are cheap and easily made. Deeds are costly and difficult to accomplish. What she may do hereafter is entirely a matter of hypothesis; what she has failed to do hitherto lies clearly before us. Facts are always stubborn things that cannot be gotten over, and there are incontestable facts that remain.

Her defences at Liaoyang which took six months for construction are indisputably admitted not only to have been the most elaborate and resistant, but strengthened and secured by every means and aids which human ingenuity and modern inventions could devise for repulsing and annihilating an attacking foe; and yet, although protected and aided by defences of this most extraordinary nature, she could not repulse the besieging force who wrested from her the position she was unable to keep, and compelled her proud commander to retreat.

At Shaho, the struggle fought out under equal conditions, without the protection and assistance of defences for the one force, and the task of breaking through defences for the other, resulted again in defeat and a sickening death roll on her side. And now the most impregnable fortress in all the world (as we are told), a chain of fifty-three strongly fortified inner and outer forts, extending over ten miles, is yielding, gradually but surely, to the indomitable tactics, the indomitable ingenuity, and the indomitable moral power and courage of her foe.

Will Russia still continue to hope in War without welcoming Peace? Then alas! for her, that she has no Chatham to point out wherein she errs, or wherein lies her delusion.

"War is Crime," "War is Hell." No truer sentiment ever yet was uttered by human lips or written by human pen. Is

there any romance in the blood-drained battle-deck, or blood-soaked battlefield; in the groans of the dying; in the lifeless bodies of the dead? Is there any glory in shattering the limbs, or stilling the heart throbs of a brother? Moralists have denounced (what have they not denounced) to their own ears; and the world with its greed, its lust of gain and of power, has gone on in its own way; but when we confine ourselves to this present war, to the honour of Japan it can be said, that even the severest moralist could pass no judgment against her, for in her case it is not a war created by politicians and capitalists sitting comfortably in their easy chairs, and for their own gain or aggrandisement sending the unhonoured and unknown rank and file to their destruction; but a war entered into by a whole nation awakened to its own danger, a whole nation feeling itself incumbent to gird up its loins in self-protection, and ready to pour out its blood for its own existence.

That all the Powers of Europe are struggling for supremacy in Asia is a fact that is too long well-known to need repeating; it concerned Japan, however, to recognise her own enemy, and in doing this she has neither been slow nor unwary. Alert, cautious, vigilant, she scented her danger when yet it loomed in the distance, and carefully prepared herself to meet it when it came; and although the contemptuous assertion has often been levelled at her people that they are "good imitators" she has proved in this conflict of life or death that she was no mere imitator, for she modelled her plans for her great struggle not after the pattern of others, but from her own designing, and modelled them so efficiently and thoroughly, with such mathematical calculation and geometrical precision, that in their turn they might well stand as a pattern to be imitated. She even took a new departure (the outcome of her own sound judgment), in declining the services of correspondents at the front—an example that might be followed by prouder Governments should occasion require it. In one particular direction also she has not imitated the great European Power she has succeeded in humbling; it is a prominent feature of this contest which should not be overlooked that whilst Russian priests (the so-styled servants of Him who preached the Sermon on the Mount) have persistently tried to incite their soldiers to the work of bloodshed in the name of the all-compassionate Christ, the Japanese have refrained from the hypocrisy of invoking the aid of the benign Buddha for deeds of slaughter.

Japan has been an imitator no more nor less than in the sense that all nations and all countries have been imitators, and that one age borrows and learns from another; but there is far more to be said. In the Japan of to-day we see not Ancient Greece revived, but Greece out-Greced; and the spirit of unsurpassed devotion to country that animates the nation; the self-effacement and self-immolation of the men who blocked Port Arthur by sea and are breaking through the appalling defences of the stronghold by land; who threw themselves into the trenches at Liaoyang and scaled the heights of Nanshan, have not been borrowed in the last forty years or more: they belong to herself; they have had their birth, growth, and development on her own soil; they have been productive of the long list of heroes whose numbers have swelled with every successive stage of the war, and re-

main to her redoubtable honour and glory, the proud heritage of her people.

And now, whatever may be the final outcome of this war, this much at least is certain, that Japan has fought herself into a position by which she has not only secured her existence as a nation, but her position as one of the Great Powers of the world. No Russian lasso for her throat now looms, nor can loom in the future; and what intelligent observer that has lived in this smiling land in the midst of her happy people, and witnessed their every-day orderly life, could refrain from the fervent prayer that never may her bright virile life be strangled; never may she pass under the yoke of the Stranger.

DIANA APCAR.

OUR LATEST BATTLESHIP.

The first-class battleship *Dominion*, built for the British Navy by Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim, Limited, at their Naval Construction Works at Barrow-in-Furness, and supplied with her armour and armament from the same company's Sheffield Works, completed on Wednesday the steam trials prescribed by contract. The results from every point of view, says "Engineering," were thoroughly successful; the speed attained at full power was, on a deep-sea course, 19.5 knots—one nautical mile per hour greater than was anticipated in the design; so that, excepting the *Triumph* and *Swiftsure* (the former, by the way, also built by the Vickers Company), she is the fastest battleship in the Fleet, which, in view of her 16,400 tons' displacement, and her powerful primary armament—four 12-in. and four 9.2-in. guns—is especially satisfactory. The power developed was 18,438 indicated horse-power—438 indicated horse-power over the contract requirement—notwithstanding that the machinery was worked under war conditions, with closed-in engine-room and other restrictions, never before exacted on contract tests. The coal consumption at full power was 1.77 lb. per indicated horse-power hour for all purposes, while the water consumption for the main engines—17.3 lb. per horse-power hour—showed a satisfactory thermal efficiency. If to these indications of success there be added the fact that the trials, themselves of 68 hours' duration, were carried out in four days, it will be conceded that the builders' firm have once more proved their position.

THE STORY OF THE CALCHAS.

The following most interesting story was obtained in Hongkong by the "South China Morning Post," which is heartily to be congratulated on its enterprise. Referring to it in its editorial column, our contemporary points out that it proves that "a gross outrage was committed in seizing the steamer, that it was unlawfully held, and that the British flag was insulted. The Russian Admiral was not justified in seizing the ship because she carried flour—which was proved by its subsequent release—and the United States mails. He was not justified in making preparations to destroy the vessel in case of possible interference by the Japanese. The hoisting of the Russian flag over the British ensign

when the ship entered Vladivostock was an unprovoked insult, which should be apologised for, and the long, weary months of detention of the ship in Vladivostock should entitle the owners to a pretty stiff bill for compensation."

THE CAPTURE.

The Ocean Steamship Company's *Calchas* is a steel screw steamer of 6,748 registered tons. She was built in 1899 by Scott and Co., of Greenock. Her dimensions are:—Length, 441.7-ft.; breadth, 52.6-ft.; depth, 30.3-ft. She is registered at Liverpool.

The *Calchas* left Tacoma on the 10th July, Victoria, B. C., on the 12th July, bound to Yokohama, her first port of call. Among her cargo she carried 23,000 bags of flour, and ninety bags of mail sent by the United States postal authorities. All went well across the Pacific for the first fourteen days, the weather being foggy and calm throughout. On the 25th July, at 6 a.m., the fog lifted, and three Russian cruisers were sighted, the cruisers being occupied in sinking the German steamer *Thea*. It was found that the *Thea* had contraband on board and insufficient coal to take her to Vladivostock. Before we were aware of it we saw the cruiser *Gromoboi* steaming towards us. We were then steering S.W. by W., and we altered our course to W.S.W. The *Gromoboi* at once fired a shot across our bow and ran up the following signals: "Where are you bound?" "What cargo have you?" "How long would your coal last?" and "What speed are you?" We replied to these, giving our speed at 12 knots. Then the signal came for us to stop, and immediately a boat was seen to be lowered from the davits of the *Gromoboi* and came quickly alongside. The boat contained two officers and ten hands.

The officers came on board, with signamens, and at once went through the ship's papers. They came to the conclusion that the ship was guilty of carrying contraband. At 8 a.m. a prize crew from the cruiser *Rurik* was sent on board, all armed, consisting of about three officers and forty men. The other boat from the *Gromoboi* left the ship and pulled to the Admiral's flagship, the *Rossia*. Then six of our English and eight of our Chinese crew were sent on board the *Rurik*. At 9 a.m. we steamed ahead again in the following order: the *Gromoboi* on the beam, *Rossia* on our port bow and *Rurik* astern, each vessel keeping about six cables' length from one another, and the *Calchas* the same distance from the *Rossia*. We were steering about N. 25 deg. E. during the remainder of the day.

The next day the orders were given to have all covers taken off the lifeboats and all ready for immediate use, in case of coming in sight of any Japanese men-of-war, when we should have to take to the boats, and the Russians would blow the ship up rather than let her fall into the hands of the Japs. It was, indeed, an anxious time for us, we having no idea what the future would be. The quartermasters of the *Calchas* were kept steering the ship, as the Russians were unable to manage her; but the rest of the hands were not allowed to do any work. The officers came to the conclusion that, if possible, the *Calchas* would be taken to Saghalien, as cable communication is maintained from there to Port Arthur and Vladivostock. Should any Japanese be in the vicinity of Vladivostock we should remain at Saghalien. For the first two days we were clear of fog, but afterwards incess-

sant fog prevailed, and we lost sight of the Russian cruisers, and also, what was worse, we were uncertain of our position. Soundings were taken every two hours, and the next day we steered due south, going at full-speed to get clear of fog and thus ascertain our position. Then the fog lifted a little ahead, and breakers were seen ahead. This was an anxious moment, the ship going at such a speed, and only for the splendid management of the English officer in charge we would have run ashore. All this time we were ready with our bags packed, and turned into our bunks with all clothes on. Life belts were kept handy, ready in case we should run ashore. The anxiety was awful, for fear of sighting the Japs on the one side and the greater chance of running ashore. We anchored after sighting the breakers in 39 fathoms. In the morning, to our great surprise, there loomed before us huge mountains, precipitous from the sea-level and capped with snow. If we had had to take to the boats there would have been no chance whatever of ever making a landing, as there is a constant heavy swell round these mountains. Even if there had been none, the mountains were so steep it would be impossible to climb them. This island was the Isle of Iterup, one of the Kurile group. We then steamed ahead again S.W. by W. until Kunashiri was sighted on our port bow. The next day, the 2nd of August, just as we were passing this place we sighted a Japanese small coasting steamer of about 300 tons, and immediately the Russians ordered their ensign to be run up aft, and all preparations were made to capture the vessel. But, after consideration, the Russian officer did not think it worth while capturing her.

Then the course for Saghalien was steered, passing through the straits between the Kunashiri and Yezo Islands; thence through La Pérouse Strait, and we dropped anchor on Thursday at Kopea-hoschia (Korsakovsk?), one of the ports in Saghalien.

Saghalien, as it will most probably be known to a great many, is a convict station. Nearly all the work for the convicts is at the coal mines, which are not deep like those in England, one only having to dig a very short distance to find coal. We took in coal, worked by these convicts with a warden in charge, and also 1,000 bags of flour of our cargo were taken out. Saghalien was not fortified at all. At 5.45 we hoisted up again and proceeded to Vladivostok. We passed a lighthouse at the entrance to Peter the Great Bay, where the German steamer Heinrich Hansel passed outward bound to Saghalien for coal (this steamer is now ashore on the rocks outside Vladivostok). We passed through Peter the Great Bay and anchored in Vladivostok, after a very anxious fourteen days since capture.

THE TWO FLAGS.

As we came in the Russian ensign was hoisted above the British ensign.

Vladivostok is a well fortified harbour, and has a great quantity of barracks, all business being carried on chiefly by Chinese, such as manufacturing, the rest being all navy or military men. The *Rossia*, *Gromoboi*, and *Rurik* were at the buoys when we came in. Great interest was taken by those on board the *Calchas* to see where our mates were. They had been removed from the cruiser *Rurik* to the transport *Hafis*. Nothing was done to the cargo

that day. We were just told to await orders.

THE NAVAL FIGHT.

On the 12th of August we saw the three cruisers go out through the Straits, and the next day a lot of firing was heard, and that afternoon the rest of our crew returned from the *Hafis*. In the evening all our discharge books were given back to us, in case of a bombardment, which was expected to take place any day. On the 14th a fierce battle took place outside the Straits between these three Russian cruisers and the Japanese. It started at 5 a.m. and lasted until 11 a.m. The *Rurik* was sunk and the captain shot dead on the bridge by the Admiral's side; also one of the officers who took charge of the *Calchas* until she arrived in Vladivostok, when they returned to the *Rurik*, and a picket from the barracks came on board.

CONDITION OF THE CRUISERS.

The next afternoon, at 3 o'clock, we saw the *Gromoboi* and *Rossia* return. The condition of these vessels was fearful. As soon as these vessels shackled to the buoys, ambulance lighters were quickly towed alongside and the dead put on board who were not buried at sea, having died on the way coming through Peter the Great Bay. Then eight large lighters full of badly wounded were towed to the jetty, and the sufferers were carried on stretchers to the marine hospital. All these lighters passed the *Calchas*, and one could see all the occupants plainly. These masses of sufferers were fearful to see, and their moans could be clearly heard. For five days afterwards we saw the funeral processions marching to the cemetery, and the solemn notes of the "Dead March" were getting a usual thing at about 10 o'clock each morning. Other lighters were towed to the smaller hospitals, these "cases" being less serious. The greater average of these wounded had bandages over the head and ears. Those near the cruisers could see the decks being washed, and streams of blood flowed through the scuppers, reminding one more of a slaughterhouse than a man-of-war.

As to the condition of these vessels. Of the two, the *Rossia* was the worst damaged; the marksmanship of the Japanese was very accurate. A great number of holes were under the waterline, and it was only through the watertight compartments that these vessels floated. Two huge holes on the vessel's quarters could be seen, large enough to drive a horse and cart through! The funnels had large holes, and were riddled with smaller ones. Ten big holes were on each of the vessel's sides. Muzzles of the guns were broken off; only two could be "run in." The fore lower mast of the *Rossia* had a huge hole through it. It was a wonder the mast stood at all. The searchlights and small quick-firing guns were all blown off the fighting tops; the after bridges on both vessels were blown to pieces; the chart-houses were also blown to atoms.

CRUISERS CONDEMNED.

These vessels could not be repaired at once, there being only one dry dock. There was another cruiser, the *Bogatyr*, in dock then, and after she came out the *Gromoboi* was put into dock. She was repaired in two months' time, and was sent out on trial, when she was run ashore and put back with a huge hole in the bottom. She is now condemned, as also the *Rossia*.

The monotony in Vladivostok was intense; only the constant new reports that we heard each day kept us from being altogether dull. Such reports as these were common: The *Calchas* was going out next week. Once we were told we would sail the next day for Moji. Steam was on the main engines, and the steering gear tried and all ready for sea, when the next day we heard that she was to remain for the winter. Also we were supposed to leave in a week's time when we first came in. The captain of the *Calchas* was the only officer who attended the trial. The trial came to a conclusion: that on Tuesday, the 13th September, at Vladivostok, when the contraband cargo was out, she was a free ship. But afterwards one of the members of the inquiry held up two letters—part of the mail. They were Government letters, and they said that that was enough evidence to condemn any vessel; so they appealed again, and the next court was to take place on the 22nd of October at St. Petersburg. The cargo was all taken out that was claimed as contraband, and we remained awaiting orders. On the 9th of November the English steamer *Allanton* was released; the other English steamer, *Cheltenham*, was condemned. The weather at first in Vladivostok was very fine, but afterwards the cold quickly set in. For the last month we had very cold weather indeed. The wind from the hills was "biting," 19 deg. of frost was the most we had there. On the 2nd of December we got the good news that we could proceed again. All the flour was first of all taken out, and then we were piloted out by a lieutenant and a sloop ahead of us, clear of the mines. We were at last free again, with no more anxiety in case of a bombardment, the ship having been bailed out.

C.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1904.

"ONE WHO KNOWS."

An amusing theory of the North Sea outrage has reached the "Times" from Sir Robert Anderson. This gentleman says:—

Russian diplomacy is noted for "economy" in one sense in which that word is used. But economy in the ordinary sense does not mark the secret service administration of the Russian Government; and here, I think, we may look for the origin of the trouble.

During all the years that I had charge of secret service inquiries in this country, I never knew a time of public excitement to pass without bringing to the surface some one of the fraternity of cosmopolitan adventurers who are ever on the watch for occasion to profit by the fears of Foreign Offices and Embassies. I have had to do with some of these gentry. One of the tribe, I have no doubt, brought the Japanese torpedo-boat story to the Foreign Office at Berlin. He would, of course, be referred to the Russian Embassy, and he would naturally represent to the Ambassador that he had been sent by the Foreign Office. This would explain the rumour that the information came from the German Government. I think I can guess the details of his story. "Just arrived from Tokio, where he was in the confidence of, etc., through whom he got particulars of the plot. He had come at once to Europe to give the warning. Reward? No, he had no wish to make

money out of an act of duty. But, of course, he had been put to great expense and, moreover, by returning to Japan he could gain further valuable information. But absolute secrecy was essential." And so on.

The man would leave with a well-filled pocket; and his information would be communicated to St. Petersburg in full detail (a bogus informant is apt to be strong in details), with assurances of his disinterestedness and of the need of secrecy. I have seen many dispatches of the kind, and I can testify how alarming such a "cock-and-bull" story appears when dressed up in diplomatic language. And by the time it reached the fleet this wild fable of an unknown adventurer would have become transformed into "reliable information received by the Government."

The free interchange of thought between our public departments at home, and between Cabinet Ministers and their confidential advisers, is a safeguard against this sort of thing, which is wanting in a country where the relations even of the Foreign Office with the Admiralty are like those of the Jews with the Samaritans.—"Hongkong Daily Press".

THE LAKE BAIKAL RAILWAY.

According to "Engineering," the recently-completed railway round Lake Baikal, on the great Trans-Siberian route, is calculated to accommodate seven trains per day in each direction; but when all the crossing stations, which are to be constructed at every 11 versts, are used, fourteen trains can be dispatched every day in each direction. The water-supply arrangements at the stations are also able to provide for the latter number of trains. The maximum gradient is 8 per 1,000 on open line, and in tunnels about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per thousand. The minimum curve radius is 150 sagues (1,050 ft.) and the gauge is the ordinary Russian gauge. All the bridges are built of stone, with upper structures of iron, and the viaducts partly of stone alone, and partly of stone and iron. All the tunnels are wide enough to allow of a double line of rails, although, so far, only a single line has been laid. The stations are mostly of brick. The railway has been built entirely by contractors, and the value of the work for each section has not been less than 1,000,000 roubles, a different system having been adopted from the one used in the building of the Trans-Baikal Railway, for on that line there was virtually no limit to the smallness of the separate contracts, in addition to which the Government themselves built certain portions of the line. The control of the work on the railway round Lake Baikal has also been somewhat closer, and the new line is expected to prove very satisfactory in this respect. The work has been pushed ahead with the greatest energy, and the line has been completed at a considerably earlier period than was at first thought possible. The various contractors are expected to have fared very differently so far as the pecuniary result is concerned, for the prices upon which the tenders were based were fairly uniform, whereas the equality and conditions of the work varied far more than was originally anticipated—a fact which means unexpected additional profit to some, and the reverse to others. The varying hardness of the rock is best illustrated by the fact that at some tunnels the quantity of dynamite required per cubic sague blasted varied from 5 lb. to 60 lb. In consequence of incomplete survey, the calculated expenditure has been exceeded by considerably more than 5,000,000 roubles, much of which comes

upon the tunnels, on account of the additional brickwork. The Baikal Lake is the largest alpine lake in the world, its area being about 34,000 square kilometres. Its height above sea-level varies a little, according to the different measurements, but is about 2,000 ft.; at places it is very deep, some 3,000 ft.; it has but few islands, and is surrounded by mountains as much as 6,000 ft. to 7,000 ft. high. The Baikal Lake is ice-bound from the end of December till the middle of May, and its waters never rise above a temperature of 10 deg. Cent. The water of Lake Baikal has but one outlet, the River Angara, which falls into the Yenisei.

Law Reports.

H. B. M. POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 27th December.

Before J. C. F. DOUGLAS, Esq., Police Magistrate.

R. v. BENJ. COHEN AND JOHN POOLE.

Benjamin Cohen, stoker of H.M.S. Iphigenia, and John Poole, quartermaster of the P. & O. S. Malta, were charged with being drunk and disorderly in Scott Road at 1.15 a.m. on the 26th inst, and further with being concerned with another not in custody in assaulting the police, viz., Indian P.C. 98 and native P.C.'s 280, 284, and 562 whilst in the execution of their duty.

John Poole did not appear.

His Worship ordered his recognisances to be forfeited and a warrant to be issued for his arrest.

John Poole appeared in Court just after his Worship had made the above order.

B. Cohen admitted he was intoxicated on Christmas day, and that he assaulted the police. J. Poole admitted being intoxicated, but denied that he had assaulted the police.

Native P. C. 562 said he was on duty on Fearon and Scott Roads when a ricscha coolie called out for a policeman. Witness went up, and when he got to the spot the two accused struck him. When he was struck by the bluejacket he blew his whistle and the other accused then assaulted him. He was hurt on the lips, nose, and eye. P. C. 284 came to his assistance, and shortly afterwards an Indian policeman came up. There was also a Japanese in the trouble. He came when witness blew his whistle, and tried to prevent the police taking accused to the station. The constables who came to witness's assistance were all assaulted.

By his Worship—When witness first arrived on the scene one of accused held hold of a ricscha and the other was striking the ricscha-man. Accused were both drunk. Accused walked to the station, but when they got to the door refused to go in.

By Inspector Bourke—The splash-board of the ricscha was damaged. Accused gave a lot of trouble going to the station. Witness was on the sick list as the result of these injuries.

J. Poole said that they were trying to get into a house in Scott Road when the constable came up and interfered. Cohen told him to go away, but the constable drew his truncheon, so Cohen struck him.

Zun Ah-du stated that he was a licensed ricscha coolie and that on the night in question his ricscha was standing at the side of the creek. Three drunken sailors came up and the English one struck witness. Witness

called out for a policeman and the accused thereupon upset the ricscha, damaging the splash-board. When the policeman came they assaulted him. Poole snatched away the constable's whistle.

By Inspector Bourke—The constable only came up when witness called out. He did not see the police use their batons.

Native P.C. 284 said a little after 1 a.m. he heard the sound of a whistle and afterward he was called by a ricscha coolie. He went to the scene of the row, and when he got there Poole struck him and snatched away his whistle. Poole did not wish to go to the station, so Indian P.C. 98 took him.

Indian P.C. 98 said he was on duty at the electric light works when he heard a whistle. He went to the scene of the row, and on his way met the two accused running and followed by four Chinese. When accused turned on them they would get away. On seeing witness, Cohen came up to him with his fists clenched. Witness therefore seized him. Poole went for the Chinese constables and afterwards came up and attempted to rescue Cohen. Witness still held on to Cohen, and they both fell on to a box, damaging witness's clothes. They struggled on the ground. The Japanese then came up and tried to persuade the Chinese constables to let Poole go. Eventually all three were taken to the station. Witness took Cohen. (Produced his damaged clothes.)

Inspector Bourke said that the damages to uniforms, etc., amounted to \$6.50. The damage to the ricscha was estimated at 20 cents.

His Worship said he would not take that into account, as it was likely that the coolie made more than that by excessive fares.

Cohen said he could not remember anything about it; he had only a dazed idea of the occurrence.

Poole said he was very sorry. He had been out here on a Blue Funnel boat twenty-five times and had never been in trouble before. He was drawing £4.5.

His Worship imposed a fine of \$15 each in the charges of being drunk and disorderly and assaulting the police; \$5 was to go to constable 562 and \$5 to Indian P. C. 98. For damaging the uniforms they would have to pay \$3.50 each.

Shanghai, 28th December.

R. v. HENRY H. GIBSON.

Henry Howe Gibson of the s.v. Comet was charged with stealing the sum of 60 cents from a hawk's stall in Broadway at 0.15 a.m. on the 28th inst. He was also charged with assaulting the hawk and native P. C. 280 at the same time and place.

Accused denied stealing the 60 cents, Nee Mah-neh said that he was a rice hawk. Accused came to his stall and snatched 60 cents away. Witness ran after him and accused knocked him down. A policeman then came up and accused assaulted him also.

By Inspector Bourke—Accused struck witness on the jaw.

By his Worship—The 60 cents were lying on witness's stall; it was all the money he had there.

A ricscha coolie said that accused hired him at five o'clock at the Ewo jetty and took him to Boone Road, from there to Astor Road, thence to the Race Course, and back to Nanzing Road. In Broadway he told witness to stop and getting out looked at a hawk's store. Witness saw him snatch something and run away. The hawk ran after him and demanded his

money, and accused knocked him down. Witness called a policeman whom accused also tried to assault.

By his Worship—Accused struck the constable on the breast.

His Worship dismissed the charge of larceny as he did not consider that it had been proved. The money found on accused should have been kept and shown to the witness.

Accused admitted that he had assaulted the hawk, but denied assaulting the constable.

Native P. C. 280 said that in consequence of what a rich coolie told him he went up to the hawk who was lying on the ground. The hawk said accused had snatched 60 cents from him. Witness ran after accused to arrest him. Accused assaulted him so he blew his whistle. P. C. 234 came to his assistance.

By his Worship—Accused struck witness on the breast and told him to go away.

P. C. 284 said that when he was near the Hongkew bridge he heard a police whistle. He hurried to the spot and saw accused assault the last witness. Accused attempted to run away so witness caught hold of him and held him until foreign P. C. 56 came up and took him to the station.

His Worship remarked that both these constables had taken part in the fracas brought before him on the preceding day.

At accused's request the hawk was recalled. In reply to accused he said that when accused took his money he ran after him and pulled his sleeve and asked for it back.

Accused explained that he had only taken the coolie at the Europe restaurant. He stopped at the hawk's store to get some change. The hawk said he had money. There was a pile of silver on the counter and accused told the man that he would take it all if he would not give him change. He then pretended to snatch some money and ran out of the shop. The hawk caught him at the back of the neck as he was leaving the shop. A crowd of rich coolies came up and caught hold of him by the hair and clothes. He tried to explain that he had not taken any money, but as the hawk was about to hit him he struck him in self-defence. He never struck the police who came up. He struggled a little and tried to explain matters to them, and when the foreign constable came up he went quietly to the station.

By his Worship—He was getting thirty shillings per month. He had only joined the ship for the trip.

His Worship warned accused that if he played jokes like this he would end by getting into very serious trouble. For assaulting the hawk he would have to pay \$3, \$1 of which would go to the hawk. With regard to the assault on the police his Worship knew that the Chinese police were very easily frightened. They must, however, be protected as much as any other police, and he gave warning that anyone else who was brought before him for assaulting them would be severely punished.

THE MIXED COURT.

Shanghai, 22nd December.

Before Mr. KUAN CHUN (Acting Judicially) and Mr. TWYMAN (British assessor.)

The Alleged Bribery Case.

Chee Yu Zee was charged on remand with obtaining by fraud the sum of \$1,100 from a female complainant on the 27th August last.

Mr. C. R. Holcomb appeared for the prosecution and Mr. W. N. Symonds for the defence.

A witness employed by a native bank said that the bank order for \$1,100 was paid through his bank to the defendant.

A native clerk in the employ of Mr. C. A. Engelbrecht said he knew the defendant; he went to see him about the payment of certain money to the complainant. Witness went to see the defendant four or five times upon the matter, and the defendant said the money would be paid at the end of the 9th moon. On the 22nd day of the 10th moon, witness was told that the defendant had already made arrangements with the complainant.

By Mr. Symonds—The claim of the complainant against the defendant was then for money owing. The word "fraud" was not mentioned in witness's office.

Detective-Inspector McDowell said that in the first place the Municipal Council received a petition from the complainant and this was forwarded to Capt. Boisragon, who in turn put it in the hands of the detective department. Complainant was sent for and questioned, and a charge was then prepared against the defendant. The petition to the Municipal Council bore the complainant's signature.

Mr. Symonds said that before calling his witnesses for the defence, he would make a few remarks. Defendant's arrest was effected without a warrant and the proceedings were somewhat irregular, and considering that defendant was a man of high standing, such procedure was quite unnecessary. The prosecution had to prove that defendant had received the money, and secondly that the money was fraudulently received. Counsel could show that the money was paid and what was done with it; defendant gave security for the money and the remedy to recover the money was within complainant's reach in the same way as it was to every other Chinese. The case was purely Chinese, but complainant thought by putting it in the hands of the police she stood a better chance; that if it was tried before the Assessor she could make use of him to recover the money. The only way for her was to make it a police case and have it tried before the Assessor. Complainant stated that the money was asked for, for the purpose of bribing the Magistrate. The defendant denied that, and the evidence of complainant was without corroboration on that point. According to complainant, the money was handed to defendant at her house. If not a prostitute, the complainant was a singing girl, and Counsel asked whether her evidence could be accepted. With regard to the question of bribing the Magistrate, Counsel submitted that it was a case which the Court should not go into; for firstly the Magistrate was not a party to these proceedings and he could not rebut anything that might be said against him. A suggestion of this sort should not be made of a man behind his back. Besides, the question was only a side issue to prejudice the case against defendant. The object for which defendant was said to want the money was immaterial. Counsel submitted that the Court refuse to allow an accusation of this sort to be made behind the Magistrate's back. With regard to the charge of fraud, the security deposited with the complainant was worth more than the money. If she was not satisfied with the security she could easily have it valued. Considering the relationship between defendant and complainant, the security was one which could be relied upon.

When complainant first made a complaint against defendant she made no use of the word fraud. Taking all the evidence together it was quite clear that the money was simply borrowed. Counsel submitted that it was a purely Chinese case, which this Court had no jurisdiction to go into. Counsel thought that the case ought to be dismissed.

The defendant said he was an official in the Central Government, of the 5th Rank. He was a salt dealer in Chékiang province and did extensive business. He also had a tea business. He first met complainant in a singing house. She invited him to see her, through her maid-servant. When he visited her, she asked him for assistance. This was in the beginning of the 5th moon. She next offered to marry him, saying that if he did not accept her, she would not be able to pass the moon festival. She said that she would be able to live moderately, and would only require \$10 a month. She was in debt and wanted defendant to pay off her debts. Complainant came round to defendant's place every day and was seen there by servants and others. On the 20th of the 7th moon she brought him a native order. She said that it was from a merchant in Hongkew. She had tried to cash the order at the bank and the bank had refused, as they wanted a guarantor. Defendant then cashed it for her, at her request, and paid her the money—about \$1,000 in silver—which she took away at different times of the day, so as not to be suspected of having money about her by her servants. Relative to the bribing of the Magistrate; assuming that the statement was true, defendant would not have told complainant of it. On the evening of the 1st day of the 8th moon complainant came to his place and talked to him as usual. On the morning of the following day a man from Mr. Engelbrecht came to collect the money. Complainant had taken away a watch from defendant and other articles. When in Peking he lent the son of a Minister the sum of Tls. 12,000 and the watch was given him in lieu of the money. Other things, including a diamond ring, were forcibly taken away from defendant. Defendant did not owe complainant any money.

By Mr. Holcomb—Defendant had a lawsuit now proceeding for the recovery of Tls. 6,800. He was a Peking mandarin. He held no official appointment at present, as he had resigned. He had been the Emperor's cook. He had lent complainant \$1,600, and she had stated that she was willing to marry him. Later she changed her mind. When she said she would marry him, she promised to take her signboard down. She did not keep her promise, and he had lost confidence in her. Witness was a wealthy man and was staying in Shanghai on account of a lawsuit. He had called on the Magistrate, but beyond that he did not know him.

Another witness for the defence gave evidence to the effect that he saw the money being paid to complainant by defendant.

The Assessor said that the case would be finished to-day and it would not be possible therefore to hear any more witnesses.

Mr. Symonds said that he did not wish to address the Court further.

Mr. Holcomb referred to defendant as a man who should be stripped of his official robes and classed as a coolie. Complainant had been stigmatised as a prostitute, and defendant, an official, stooped so low as to associate with her. The Emperor's cook and the associate of

prostitutes! In order to win a case he had said that he had to get money to bribe the Magistrate. That he was engaged in a lawsuit was proved and the money had been traced to him showing he did get it. As regarded the security defendant said it was worth \$10,000. Counsel would not value it at more than \$100. Defendant had shown what he was by his insolent and arrogant behaviour in Court, and everything in connection with this case pointed to fraud having been committed.

The Court retired for a few minutes, after which it was decided that defendant be acquitted of fraud. After some further discussion it was ordered that the complainant's civil claim for \$1,100 be referred to the Taotai.

As defendant failed to attend at the hour notified for the hearing of the case he would be fined Tls. 100—the money to be paid to the Red Cross Society.

Shanghai, 23rd December.
Before Mr. HUANG HSUEN (Magistrate)
and Mr. TWYMAN (British Assessor).
Attempted Assassination of Ex-Governor Wang. Heavy Sentence.

The schoolmaster, Wan Fu-hua, was brought up for judgment.

The Court found him guilty of attempting to assassinate Ex-Governor Wang and sentenced him to ten years' imprisonment with hard labour.

Accused demurred at this sentence and the Magistrate said that if he was not satisfied he could take steps to appeal.

An Alleged Accomplice.

Wan Fu-hua's nephew was charged with conspiring with him to attempt to assassinate H.E. Wang.

Det. Sergt. Burnside said that whilst making enquiries about the first prisoner he heard about the chit written by someone in foreign clothes. Witness got a description of the man. He found accused was a nephew of H.E.'s assailant. Witness asked accused if he knew of a man in foreign clothes and he replied that such a man had been to see his uncle on several occasions and had had private interviews with him. He said he knew this man's name. Accused was arrested as a witness.

Prisoner in reply to the Magistrate admitted that he was a nephew of Wan Fu-hua.

Accused was acquitted and released on personal security being given.

Alleged Coiners and their Armoury.

Seven students—Tsang Hung-nee, Tser Yong-chong, Tser Ying-sai, Tsang Zue-cha, San Hung-woo, Tsang Sing and Loong Hung Zu-yung—were charged with having in their possession a quantity of revolvers, swords, daggers, sword umbrellas, and revolver ammunition, within the limits of the settlements, thereby being a menace to the peace and good order of the settlements, at No. 485, S. Avenue Road at midnight on the 20th November. Further with having in their possession a quantity of counterfeit coin, to wit:—3,148 20-cent pieces, 9,058 10-cent pieces, with intent to defraud the public by putting same in circulation, at the same time and place.

Mr. Ellis appeared for the defence.

Inspector Wilson said that when the case last came before the Court a search warrant was obtained. When the premises were searched further spurious coins, bringing up the total value to between \$1,500 and \$1,600, were found. On the 20th of November Det.-Sergt. Burnside was

out with Wan, making enquiries. In the Foochow Road Tsang Hung-nee attempted to communicate with Wan and Det. Burnside told him that if he wished to speak to the prisoner he must come to Louza station. He came there, and being unable to give a satisfactory account of himself, was searched. On his person were found four spurious 20-cent pieces and 15 ten-cent pieces. He gave his address as 485 S. Avenue Road. The detectives visited this address to verify his statement and to see if there was any spurious coin there. They found three men in the house and questioned them about Tsang's property. These men all pleaded ignorance. The detectives then opened a bag in which they found a revolver, two packets of ammunition, and 200 counterfeit 10-cent pieces. They saw an umbrella, which proved to have a sword in it. Tser Yang-chang was searched as his movements were suspicious, and on his person were found a loaded revolver and two boxes of ammunition. The three men were then arrested and taken to Louza. The detectives returned to the house to put a constable in charge. When they got there they found a man concealed under a bed. As they were about to leave the house they found another man, accompanied by five other men, entering. These were also arrested, but four were released on security by order of the Court. The search warrant was executed by Deputy Supt. McEuen and Det.-Sergeant Burnside, who found more arms and a quantity of spurious coins. One packet of 10 cent pieces was addressed to a cash shop on the native Bund. Spurious coins were found on the persons of three of the accused. All accused denied the ownership of the spurious coins found. They described themselves as students and one of them said a box containing spurious coin was left with him by a friend now away in Japan. Three revolvers, 550 cartridges, four daggers, one European and one Japanese sword, and five sword umbrellas were found on the premises.

Det.-Sergt. Burnside corroborated Inspector Wilson's statement, and added that when he went to the address given by Tsang Hang-nee, the men there said they did not know him. (Witness produced the revolver and daggers found on his second visit.) Tsang Sing was the man who was entering as witness was coming out. Whilst witness was searching the place on his first visit, Tser Yong-chong came and stood by his side. As his movements were suspicious witness searched him and found a loaded revolver and two boxes of ammunition. Witness found from the landlord of the house that it was rented by Tsang Hang-nee. On the 23rd November witness received a warrant to search the house. He did so and found a loaded revolver, ammunition, swords and sword umbrellas, daggers and a quantity of brass money.

Cross-examined by Mr. Ellis—Witness did not know how many people lived at 485, Avenue Road. There were about fifteen beds in the house. He found the weapons, produced, in the bedrooms. Witness went upstairs to make enquiries, as there was no one downstairs. He walked through one bedroom on his first visit. He found the weapons in two of the bedrooms. He did not endeavour to find out how many people occupied the bedrooms. When he executed the search warrant there was no one in the house. Tsang Hang-nee said he knew Wan Fu-hua. Witness arrested Tsang Hang-nee because he knew Wan and could be a witness and also because he was in possession of spurious money. It

was on the 20th November that Tsang was arrested. All men were searched before being locked up. (Brass money found on Tsang produced.) About \$60 worth of money was found in his possession. At first accused said he had only been in Shanghai a few days, but later admitted that he had been in Shanghai some time. Witness did not find any weapons on Tsang. With regard to Tser Yong-chong, the next man on the charge sheet, witness had not made enquiries and could not say whether or not he had recently returned from Japan. He was arrested in the house because his movements just suspicious. He came into the room after witness had looked into the bag. Witness was not searching the house. It was in the evening that witness arrested this man. Accused had no other firearms in his possession. So far as witness knew he had not searched any boxes belonging to this man. When searched at the station witness found on him a spurious twenty-cent piece. Witness considered this suspicious under the circumstances. Tser Ying-sai was arrested in the house at the same time as Tser Yong-chong. Witness took him to the station and charged him with being concerned with the others. No firearms were found in his possession either at the house or at the station. Tsang Zue-cha was also in the room during witness's first visit, and was taken to the station with the others. He was not searched until he got to the station. No fire-arms, ammunition or counterfeit coin were found on his person. Witness could not say whether any of the boxes searched belonged to him. Lau Hung-woo was found under the bed on witness's second visit. He was searched at the station and 50 cents' worth of spurious coins were found on him, but no weapons. Tsang Sing was entering the house just as witness left. Neither firearms nor counterfeit coin were found on him. Loong Zu-yung was arrested when entering with Tsang Sing. He accompanied witness to the station, where he was charged with the others. He also had neither arms or counterfeit coin in his possession. Witness could not say whether he lived at Avenue Road. He said he did not live there. All except Loong said they lived at the house in Avenue Road. The house was an ordinary Chinese one, with three rooms upstairs and three rooms on the ground floor.

At this stage the Court adjourned, after ordering the release of Tsang Sing and Loong Zu-yung, against whom, it considered, there was no evidence.

BIRTHS.

WILLIS.—On the 13th of December, 1904, at H.B.M. Consulate, Swatow, the wife of Robert Willis, of a daughter.

PREW.—On the 25th of December, 1904, at 37a, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, the wife of W. F. Prew, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CARLSON—HYDE.—On the 14th of December, 1904, at Ichang, China, by the Rev. D. T. Huntingdon, Charles Edward Carlson, son of the late Frederick Carlson, to Helen Louise, daughter of Horton A. Hyde, Esq., of Syracuse, New York.

(San Francisco paper, please copy.)
VON RAVENS—FRICK.—On the 25th of December, 1904, at Hongkong, Thorhill Bülow, eldest son of Carl Johann, Baron von Ravens, of the I.M.C., Shanghai, to Anna Alexandra, daughter of Johann Frick of Bergen, Norway.

LEVY-NATHAN.—On the 17th of November, 1904, at the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, London, by the Rev. Maurice Joseph, M.A., assisted by the Rev. Isidore Harris, Simon A. Levy, of Shanghai, to Violet Iuez, fourth surviving daughter of the late Mr. L. E. Nathan, of No. 3, Loudoun Road, London, formerly of Christchurch, New Zealand.

DEATHS.

WRIGHT.—On the 22nd of December, 1904, at Ningpo, Mary Miller, wife of the Rev. Harrison K. Wright aged twenty-nine years.

SELDON.—On the 23rd of December, 1904, at the Isolation Hospital, Minnie A. Seldon, aged 27 years.

SCHWYZER.—On the 28th of December, 1904, at 82, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, Frederic Leonhard, the beloved infant son of Francis and Ethel Louise Schwyzzer, aged three weeks.

The funeral will take place at 4.30 p.m. to-day, at the New Cemetery.

CUNNINGHAM.—On the 28th of December, 1904, at the General Hospital, Mathew Cunningham (of Greenock, Scotland), aged 26 years.

PASSENGERS, &c.

OUTWARD.

Per str. **TOKIN.**—For Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Ly, Messrs. C. Moore, Lemon, C. H. Rew, K. Yokoyama, T. Miyeda, N. Lookinsky, John Baptiste, Fred Jones, J. A. Remedios, Chater, and Jules Danon. For Saigon—Mr. Tusini. For Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. N. E. B. Ezra, Messrs. J. A. David and child, Messrs. Donaldson, Ting, Troble Boulairet, Ahmed Hassan, Mohamed Ali, and Haron Hokhma. For Aden—Messrs. Rizaef and Taglieff. For Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Basquale, Radici, Kermorgant, Maussou, Cosquer, Husson, Gédet, Saudon, Jaouen, Béar, Granger, St. Pol, Cabel, Guéguen, Castel, Ruseff, Loguillard, Maguer, Dogoin, Susserrégn, Meuni r, Charles, Lejeune, Bonniol, Couturier, Lescot, Manset, Garnier, Leopold, Henry Bardy, Gaillard, Henri Van Bergen, A. Grandiolas, C. de Ryckman, Coletti Guiseppe, Doucet, Tonnelat, and W. R. Hughes.

Per str. **COPIC.**—For Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Greenburg, Capt. McKay, Messrs. E. Eden and G. Esaeu.

Per str. **KIANGFOO.**—For Hankow—Col. Marshall.

Per str. **FEICHING.**—For Amoy—Mr. Gardner.

Per str. **ANPING.**—For Hongkong—Mr. Nafta'y.

Per str. **WUCHANG.**—For Chefoo—Messrs. Bond and Zimmermann.

Per str. **POYANG.**—For Wuhu—Mrs. Tuebbin, Mrs. Cameron, and Mrs. Meathrel. For Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Panoff, and Miss Devitt.

Per str. **PEKIN.**—For Ningpo—Mrs. K. Kabayashi.

Per str. **BENGAL.**—For Hongkong—Miss Page, Messrs. E. D. Merrill, H. C. Walrond, H. Sheppard, C. A. Cooke, Roul Dias Quintas, T. W. Mitchell, Rouse, Beavis, and Warre. For Singapore—Messrs. Goodrich and H. Macé. For Penang—Mr. Alexander Mackie. For London—Mr. T. J. Reed.

Per str. **ROON.**—For Nagasaki—Capt. Beadwell, Messrs. A. G. Wood, Roche, D. Jankowitz, Sullivan, and A. Sakata. For Yokohama—Messrs. Ngai King-foan and Y. Naguski. For Kobe—Messrs. Takayo and Yanagawa.

Per str. **MEISHUN.**—For Hankow—Messrs. Mueller and Lohlein.

Per str. **KWANGTAH.**—For Hongkong—Mr. Liang.

Per str. **ANPING.**—For Hongkong—Messrs. J. Bard and H. Smith.

Per str. **KIANDYUNG.**—For Hankow—Mr. Deller.

Per str. **HSINCHI.**—For Ningpo—Messrs. H. Raunz and J. Andrew.

Per str. **SUIWO.**—For Chinkiang—Mrs. and Miss Holliday, Messrs. H. P. Winslow, and J. Gorry. For Wuhu—Mr. H. B. Emerson.

Per str. **TAISANG.**—For Nagasaki—Messrs. K. Yamaguchi, T. Soyajima, and Y. Takamasu. For Kobe—Mrs. Yang, Messrs. P. Yeatman, E. C. Thurston, S. Sakuyama, S. Sadachi, R. Sasaki, Tei, Liu, Dzee, and Man.

Per str. **KWANGTAH.**—For Hongkong—Capt. Frapton.

Per str. **HSINCHI.**—For Ningpo—Mr. Chow.

Per str. **PEKIN.**—For Ningpo—Messrs. David Manson, R. B. Allen, W. N. Fleming, J. K. Tweed, L. Plummer, and J. S. Watson.

Per str. **TATUNG.**—For Hankow—Messrs. J. P. Donovan, F. D. Burrett, Goldman, and W. A. Birchall.

Per str. **COLUMBIA.**—For Foochow—Mrs. E. H. Conger, Misses Broomfield and Campbell.

Per str. **FUNGSHUN.**—For Pagoda Anchorage—Mr. and Mrs. Coursier, and Miss E. S. Hartwell.

Per str. **KWANGTAH.**—For Hongkong—Mr. Careem.

Per str. **KIANGKUAN.**—For Nanking—Mr. Chu.

INWARD.

Per str. **ANPING.**—From Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Lanners. Capt. McTaggart, Messrs. Pavlovsky, Grunwald, Zorginsky, Olentchuk, and Fugarretti.

Per str. **PEKIN.**—From Ningpo—Messrs. J. Nanuhawa and Ishisaka.

Per str. **TATUNG.**—From Hankow and Ports—Mrs. Bennett, Messrs. Ozama, McLellan, and Smith.

Per str. **SUIAN.**—From Hankow and Ports—Mr. Clark.

Per str. **HANGCHOW.**—For Swatow—Miss Horner M.D.

Per str. **ROON.**—From Hamburg—Lieuts. Nau and von Pöcset. Messrs. H. Tocke, P. Sorensen, B. A. Meyer, Freise, T. A. Panny, M. Hoser, E. Klein, A. Gunther Othe, and H. Granditz. From Southampton—Mrs. Merrilees, Misses Caratza, Smith, Grainger, T. Hall, and A. McClelland, Messrs. A. P. Dobbie, G. E. Marshall, G. A. V. Dick, M. Justersen, Lane, P. Dixon, J. Walsh, H. R. Staff, T. Starling, W. Thomson, and A. McGregor. From Genoa—Mrs. von Schab, Rev. and Mrs. Madeley, Mr. and Mrs. Kratzig, Misses Behagel, and Ellen Baden, Messrs. T. C. Martin, W. M. Law, H. Bollenhagen, G. Leinung, R. Maboufield, A. Korff, M. Klemantosko, F. Kindermann, H. de Burlet, W. Busching, A. Kornor, and T. Mendel Grin. From Naples—Mrs. Schulze and Wiseler. From Colombo—Miss Helen Hunt. From Singapore—Capt. T. Wynandt, Messrs. Friedenthal and Pantuch. From Hongkong—Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Menti, Messrs. Turner, C. F. Briggs, Gock, Arser, Deacon, K. Oldorp, F. M. Brooks, G. George, Wheeler, E. Rehders, A. Pitocano, Korndorfer, Sakata, Lorenz, Levett, Pielsen, Petersen, and Friedmann.

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Per str. **LOONGMOON.**—From Hongkong—Misses Bott-r and Cooke.

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Per str. **CHOYSANG.**—From Hongkong—Capt. Little.

Per str. **FOOCHOW.**—From Hongkong and Swatow—Miss V. Coryell, and Mr. Kesanesuitz.

Per str. **KWANGTAH.**—From Hongkong—Mr. Knutson.

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Per str. **KIANGKUAN.**—From Hankow—Mrs. Lu, Dr. Gertrude Taft, M.D., Messrs. Jules Gory, Ohlinger and Birchall.

Per str. **HAEN.**—From Foochow—Messrs. H. A. E. Jachene and Long.

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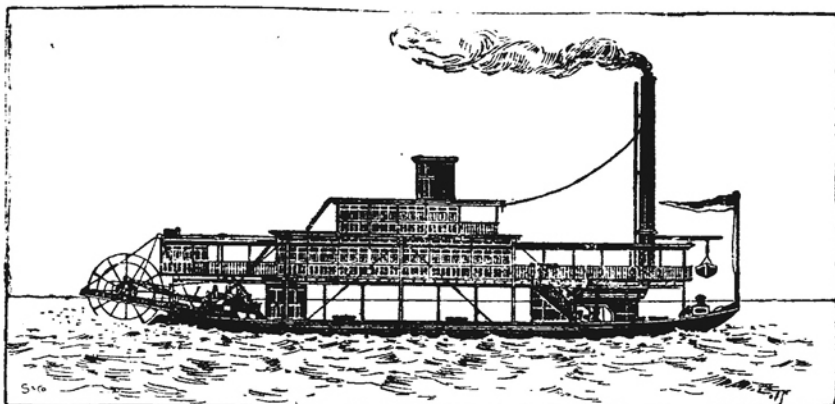
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5th April, 1904.

LATE NEWS SUPPLEMENT

NORTH-CHINA HERALD & S. C. & C. GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1904.

MR. MORSE ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF CHINA.

30th December.

AN extremely valuable and interesting pamphlet is that recently issued by the Statistical Department of the Imperial Maritime Customs, written by the Statistical Secretary, Mr. H. B. Morse, and bearing the full title of "An Inquiry into the Commercial Liabilities and Assets of China in International Trade." In commenting from time to time on the annual reports made by the various Commissioners of Customs, we have long since ceased to take any notice of the tables of values of imports and exports that used to be regularly appended, but have lately been dropped; they proved what was impossible, that China was losing money all the time on her foreign trade. Mr. Morse begins by a reference to this, and shows that in the ten years from 1894 to 1903 inclusive, China imported merchandise and treasure to the value of Haikuan taels 2,219,100,000, her exports of the same being valued at Haikuan taels 1,988,300,000, showing an apparent net loss to China in ten years of nearly 231 million taels; which, as Euclid says, is absurd. Again, Mr. Morse writes: "Until the end of the war with Japan, China had incurred practically no Foreign debt. As a consequence of that war she was burdened with a debt of £50,000,000 (or, say, Hk. Tls. 400,000,000), and the periodic payments abroad under this head were further increased by the indemnities to be paid to Foreign Powers for their rescue operations in 1900-01; the annual payments under these two heads now amount to upwards of Hk. Tls. 45,000,000 a year. The natural effect of this increase in the national indebtedness should be a compulsory increase in the shipment of merchandise to cover the indebtedness; but in this land of paradox it has happened that it is the imports which have increased, until they are now a third greater than the exports; and it is the object of this inquiry to throw some light on the anomaly thus presented." To those who believe in the popular version of the much-misunderstood "balance of trade" theory such a condition is most alarming; a country whose imports are a third greater than its exports must be on

the highroad to ruin. There is no reason to believe that as a matter of fact China is any poorer than she was ten or twenty or fifty years ago, as she must be if it were true that she is constantly sending out a great deal more than she is taking in; Mr. Morse sets to work, and very successfully, to show how the equilibrium which undoubtedly exists is arrived at; and he makes out a table of what he calls China's assets and liabilities in one year. Taking the ordinary use of the terms assets and liabilities, Mr. Morse's use of them is misleading: it is not a balance sheet that he produces, but a working account, and he shows in detail how carefully he has compiled it. It cannot be strictly accurate, because there are foreign "enclaves" in China from which the necessary returns are not procurable, so that, as Mr. Morse says, "with these elements of uncertainty, and in the absence of any power to compel the giving of true statistics in a country in which international trade is conducted under conditions of extraterritoriality, any estimate of commercial liabilities and assets must contain many figures the accuracy of which is doubtful. In some cases a fairly close estimate may be made by careful inquiry, but in others the best that can be done is to adopt a reasonable working hypothesis, and on it to base a conjecture." Mr. Morse's inquiry results in the production of the following working account:—

Dr.	Hk. Tls.
Value of merchandise exported from the Treaty ports of China, 1903, at moment of shipment	236,205,162
Value of bullion and coin exported from the Treaty ports, 1903	33,046,532
Excess of exports over imports of unrecorded trade over land frontiers of China	4,000,000
Expenditure on development of railways, mines, etc.	27,000,000
Expenditure on Foreign Embassies and Consulates, etc., in China	5,000,000
Maintenance of Foreign garrisons	7,500,000
Expended on maintenance of Foreign war vessels, including money spent by crews	15,000,000
Expended on maintenance of Foreign merchant vessels, including money spent by crews	2,000,000
Repairs to Foreign vessels at Shanghai and elsewhere	10,000,000

Expenditure on Foreign missions, hospitals, and schools	6,000,000
Expended by Foreign travellers in China	6,000,000
Remittances from and money brought in by Chinese emigrants	73,000,000
Total...Hk. Tls.	424,751,694

Cr.	Hk. Tls.
Value of merchandise imported into the Treaty ports of China, 1903, at moment of landing	310,453,428
Value of bullion and coin imported into the Treaty ports, 1903	37,001,165
Principal and interest of Loans and Indemnities	44,210,400
Expenditure on Chinese Embassies and Consulates abroad	1,320,000
Expended by Chinese students and travellers abroad	3,000,000
Net profits of Foreigners remitted to home countries	16,000,000
Net freights and net premia of insurance (fire and marine) collected by Foreign companies	6,750,000
Munitions of war, not included in value of merchandise imported	5,000,000
Total...Hk. Tls.	423,734,993

To follow up intelligently the reasoning by which Mr. Morse arrives at this result would demand the reprinting of the whole pamphlet, which all those interested in the question will certainly procure and study. The most difficult entry of all is "Remittances from and money brought in by Chinese emigrants, Tls. 73,000,000," as it is impossible to do more than estimate this. To this one entry Mr. Morse devotes four pages, giving the probable return from every country in which Chinese immigrants are to be found. The result is what is really a minimum estimate of Hk. Tls. 73,120,000. Mr. Morse says: "The figure I take as probably nearest to the truth that we can get with our present information, and as pretty certainly a minimum estimate. Nothing is included for the large body of Chinese who even prior to 1904 were in South Africa. Further, contract labourers have no savings for the first year or two, as their earnings go to repay the contractors for the cost of transport and advances, and only net savings of the labourers are included; but the payments to the contractors must be returned to

China in a constantly recurring stream to provide advances and transport for a fresh supply of labourers."

Mr. Morse must be heartily congratulated on the industry and ability with which he has compiled statistics to prove what was known to be the fact, that her foreign connection was not impoverishing China, a conclusion that might be hastily formed from consideration of the value, at moment of landing and shipping respectively, of her imports and exports, and the recorded movements of treasure. Foreign trade everywhere has the quality of mercy; "it bleaseth him that gives and him that takes," and the more free it is in any country, the more that country prospers. The country that abandons free trade for protection, however limited that protection may be, does itself more injury than it does the countries against which it seeks to protect itself. It is like the Chinaman who commits suicide on his enemy's doorstep in the hope of injuring his enemy.

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THE WAR.

A GREAT JAPANESE
SUCCESS AT PORT ARTHUR.

THE CAPTURE
OF EHRLUNGSHAN.

Tokio, 29th December, Urgent.

The Japanese occupied Ehrlungshan at 7.30 p.m. yesterday.—Our own correspondent.

* * * Ehrlungshan is one of the northerly forts in the enceinte. It is next to and east of Sungshushan.

We issued the above news in an extra early yesterday afternoon.—Ed.

Later.

It is officially announced that furious assaults were made by the Japanese on Ehrlungshan Fort No. 10 from Wednesday forenoon, when the parapet was blown up. The forts on the neck were first captured, and the whole Fort was occupied at 7.30 p.m. yesterday.—Our own correspondent.

MORE SKIMISHES ON THE SHAHO.

Tokio, 29th December.

It is officially announced that the Russians bombarded the Shaho railway bridge and the vicinity with heavy field guns yesterday afternoon.

There were skirmishes at two other places in which the Russians were repulsed, though the Japanese picket posts were temporarily surrounded at Chinsantun and Ltajentun.

The Japanese had three casualties.—Our own correspondent.

THE NEUTRALITY OF NETHERLANDS INDIA.

London via Bombay, 29th December.

It is pointed out at the Hague that the neutrality of Sabang, in Sumatra, will be maintained by two battleships, two armoured cruisers, a gunboat, and four destroyers, which are now there, while there are three other battleships in the Archipelago, and two warships are leaving Holland to reinforce them.—Reuter.

THE REFORM MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA.

London via Bombay, 29th December.

The assemblage in the Pavloff Hall on the 26th inst. was widely representative. It was called a banquet to evade the prohibition of public meetings. It closed at 2.30 a.m. The speeches made were of the most perfervid character.

The resolution passed denounced the war, and demanded a legislature to be elected by means of the ballot.—Reuter.

THE CHERNIGOFF ZEMSTVO MAKES A PRACTICAL PROTEST.

London via Bombay, 29th December.

The President and forty members of the Chernigoff Zemstvo have resigned in consequence of the *communiqué* and the Zemstvo is accordingly dissolved.—Reuter.

* * * It was to the Chernigoff Zemstvo that the Czar sent a *Communiqué* reminding it that it was not to meddle with politics.—Ed.

THE GROWING FERMENT IN RUSSIA.

London via Bombay, 29th December.

Prince Galitzin, Mayor of Moscow, has resigned. These and other incidents indicate the growing ferment in Russia.—Reuter.

THE CZAR'S SINCERITY DOUBTED.

London via Bombay, 29th December.

The recent decree of the Czar is so worded that it is variously re-

garded as conceding much and conceding nothing beyond vague promises.

Meanwhile the unqualified language of the Government *communiqué* causes deep disappointment.

The Moscow Zemstvo has adjourned indefinitely, after adopting a resolution declaring that the delegates are so concerned by yesterday's *communiqué* that they are unable to conduct their business with the necessary calmness.—Reuter.

THE MOVEMENT IN ST. PETERSBURG.

London via Bombay, 29th December.

The St. Petersburg Municipality has resolved to petition for the convening of a congress of representatives of the municipalities of Russia.—Reuter.

THE DEPARTURE OF GENERAL SLADE.

London via Bombay, 29th December.

General Slade starts to-day for Yokohama.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL REPORT.

We have to thank the Consul-General for Japan for the following official telegram:—

Tokio, 29th December.

The Port Arthur Army reports: At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, on the blowing up of the parapet front of Ehrlungshan fort, the left centre of our army rushed in and carried the parapet by assault. In spite of the enemy's fire they constructed defensive works under cover of our heavy guns and field guns. At 4 p.m. we assaulted and occupied the line of heavy guns in the interior, and then proceeded to the main fort, from which the enemy was eventually dislodged after a short resistance. Thus at 7.30 p.m. the whole fort of Ehrlungshan fell completely into our hands.

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(Special Cable Service of "Der
Ostasiatische Lloyd.")

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

Berlin, 28th December.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the issue of the Russia loan, which has already been mentioned, is imminent.

General Baron Meyendorff, who was until now commanding the first Manchurian Army, has been recalled from East Asia, in order to take over the office of Governor of Varsovia.

An expedition of the German Red Cross Society will leave via Genoa in January next under the command of Professor Henle of the University of Breslau, to join the Japanese Army.

Dr. von Kober, the Austrian Premier and Minister of the Interior, has resigned.

The following telegrams are from the "Kobe Herald":

London, 21st December.

General Meckel, a former adviser to the Japanese Army, states that the German Military Staff is convinced that the Russians have no longer any prospect of turning in their own favour the balance of advantage, either on sea or land.—"Asahi."

London, 22nd December.

It is reported that Admiral Rozhizhensky has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of Russia's naval forces in the Pacific in succession to Admiral Skrydlov, who will be transferred to another command.—"Mainichi."

Vienna, 22nd December.

Many prominent members of the Russian Revolutionary Parties are in active communication with this city. Some of them are Radicals, while other hold more moderate views, and they are not in agreement as to whether force should be resorted to, or more peaceable methods employed. They are all, however, beginning to co-operate in opposition to the Government.—"Mainichi."

The negotiations between Japan and France, Spain, and Holland, with regard to the supply of coal and provisions to the Baltic Squadron are still in progress, but these Governments, recognising that the proceedings complained of by Japan may be detrimental to their own interests, have already instructed the authorities at their ports to strictly adhere to the principles of neutrality.—"Mainichi."

Berlin, 22nd December.

The Russian journal "Sviet" asserts that it will be impossible for the Baltic Squadron to continue its voyage to the Far East unless it receives French assistance.—"Mainichi."

Seoul, 23rd December.

The relations between Korea and the Powers have undergone an important change. The French, Italian, and Belgium Ministers at Seoul have been vainly applying to the Korean Government for concessions in connection with mines. Their Governments, recognising that Japan ought to be consulted about such matters, in view of the Japanese-Korean Agreement, have now instructed the Ministers to discontinue the negotiations, which will be taken up by the respective Ministers at Tokio.—"Mainichi."

A Tokio telegram to the Osaka "Mainichi" states that the Japanese Government has contradicted the Berlin rumour to the effect that Japan desired to take part in the North Sea enquiry.

The Tokio Foreign Department has received the following telegrams.—The Wolff Agency at St. Petersburg reports as follows:—On the 19th December the President of the Zemstvo at Chelnigoff presented to the Cz. a resolution passed by the Zemstvo in relation to political reforms. According to the Russian "Official Gazette," His Majesty replied to the effect that the attitude of the President was impolitic and thoughtless and that the Zemstva, the duties of which were fixed by law, had no right to interfere in State affairs.

The St. Petersburg journal "Viedemosti" has published the following article:—"The students demonstrations cannot be effectively dealt with by the police authorities. It is quite certain from the past failures that, however great may be the powers entrusted to the police, and however severely the rioters may be punished, the disturbances cannot be ended so long as the Government fails to penetrate to the cause of the trouble. Hitherto the authorities have run after shadows and have refused to face the true explanation of the trouble. The Press and the other leaders of public opinion know what lies at the root of this disaffection but they have been reluctantly compelled to keep silence, feeling that the

time was not yet ripe for utterance. In several districts, however, there have now appeared men bold enough to actively oppose the Government at their own peril. It is with regret that we note that many undeserved sacrifices of lives are occurring through this movement. These lamentable events must be ascribed to the fact that the public has no legitimate way of expressing its will, and of urging upon the authorities the necessity of reforms. No remedy for this state of affairs can be found in the prosecution of students."

The first session of the International Investigation Commission with respect to the North Sea incident, was held at Paris on the 20th inst. It was resumed on the 22nd.

WE understand from private advices from Sasebo that the commander and lieutenant of the Russian destroyer Ratsoropy, who are supposed to be on parole in Shanghai, have been identified on board the captured steamer Nigretia.

The tunnelling operations for the reduction of Sungshushan and Itzesan, at Port Arthur, are progressing favourably and news of fresh explosions may be expected in a few days.

THE U. S. gunboat Elcano arrived here from Hankow yesterday.

THE P. & O. intermediate str. Java, from London, left Hongkong for Shanghai at 7 a.m. yesterday.

H. M. CRUISER IPHIGENIA and torpedo-boat destroyers Hart and Janus left for Hongkong yesterday.

ON Monday last a local sportsman shot a wild hen turkey weighing over 13 lbs., just beyond Unkaza.

AT 2.10 a.m. yesterday a fire occurred in No. 174, Park Road. It was caused by the upsetting of a lamp. The inhabitants, assisted by the Police, got the outbreak under and it was not necessary to give the alarm.

IT may be interesting to note, in reference to Sir Hiram Wilkinson's successor, that the families of Havilland and de Sausmarez are well-known in Guernsey, their native island.

THE annual meeting of the American Asiatic Society was held in the Chamber of Commerce Rooms at 5.15 p.m. yesterday, Mr. J. N. Jameson in the chair. A lengthy and interesting report was read by the secretary, Mr. C. S. Leavenworth, and a committee and officers were appointed for the ensuing year. We are compelled to hold over a full report until to-morrow.

WE have received Tientsin papers with dates to the 23rd inst.—The Tientsin A. D. C. contemplate producing "Dandy Dick," to be followed by "Dorothy."—Over 4,000 coolies have been shipped from Tientsin by Messrs. A. Chazalon & Co., for work on the French Yunnan railway.—The Shansi bankers in Peking are busily raising funds for the construction of railways in their province, so as to anticipate the Russian concessions.—The service of the present Chinese Minister in London has been extended for six months.

A SERIOUS accident occurred in the Kiange Road yesterday afternoon. A pony in a Chinese-owned brougham got unmanageable and collided with another carriage, whose occupant was Mr. Suttle. So great was the impact of the collision that one of the shafts of Mr. Suttle's carriage was forced right into the Chinese pony's chest. The poor beast also had its leg broken. After numerous attempts to get the animal up, it was decided to shoot it, and a constable came on the scene with a carbine with which the pony was put out of its misery. The occupants of the carriages escaped unhurt.

HERR FRIEDENTHAL's programme for to-night at the Masonic Hall:—

- I. Sonata, op. 35, in B flat minor..Chopin
 - I. Energetic Movement
 - II. Scherzo
 - III. Funeral March
 - IV. "..... and at midnight the winds will rise, and howl and moan over the open grave of the departed friend."
2. (a) Prelude in D flat } Chopin
 (b) Valse in A flat }
 (c) Ballad in F major }
3. (a) Spinning Song from "The Flying Dutchman".....Wagner-
 (b) March from "Tannbauser".....Liszt
4. (a) "On the Wings of" } Mendelssohn-
 Song".....Liszt
 (b) Norwegian Dance.....Grieg
 (c) "Mandoline".....Thomé
 (d) Hungarian Dance in F sharp.....Brahms
5. (a) Gavotte Antique.....Corelli
 (b) Hungarian Rhapsodie, No. 13.....Liszt

AT 2.20 a.m. yesterday a fire broke out at No. 30, Dai Wong-mian Road, Sinza. The alarm was given promptly, and the brigade, headed by the Mih-ho-loongs, were quickly on the spot. By the time streams had been got on the adjoining houses were well alight and the flames were threatening Messrs. Bavier & Co.'s skin godown at No. 11. The danger in this direction was overcome by the Mih-ho-loongs, who got up on the roof of the godown by an outside staircase and after removing a portion of the roof were able to extinguish the flames which had already caught the building. The other companies worked hard on all sides, but the scarcity of hydrants in the locality rendered their task a difficult one and it was getting on for 5 a.m. before the coolie corps was put on. Nos. 28, 29, 30, 31, 18, and 19, Dai Wong-mian Road, were destroyed, and the godown was damaged by fire and water. The fire started at No. 30, which is insured for Tls. 1,000 with Messrs. E. D. Sassoon, and is said to have been caused by the upsetting—whether intentionally or not we cannot say—of a lamp.

WE have received Japan papers with dates from Tokio and Yokohama to the 24th, Kobe the 25th, and Nagasaki the 26th inst.—The property of the East Honganji Temple at Kioto has been seized at the suit of the Kitahama Bank.—Dalny is reported to be infested with Russian spies and cases of incendiarism are numerous.—Of two blockade-running junks recently captured off Port Arthur, one contained 48 Russian dead, and the other 100,000 eggs.—The hawks belonging to the Imperial Hunting Bureau are being trained to catch carrier pigeons.—A London telegram to the "Jiji" announces the death of the well-known ironmaster, Sir Lowthian Bell, at the age

of 88.—At the half-yearly meeting of the Japan Sugar Refining Co., two dividends were declared at the rate of 15 and 5 per cent per annum, respectively.—The Korean budget for the past fiscal year has been reduced from 19 to 12 million yen.—The King Arthur, which has just been captured and taken to Saseho, had been landing munitions of war at Port Arthur alongside the Sebastopol, being unable to enter the harbour.—Mr. Yun Yong-son, formerly Prime Minister, died at Seoul on the 21st inst.—General Nicholson was present at the capture of 203-metre hill.—A beautiful wedding took place at Tokio on the 19th, the bridegroom being Count Alexander von Hatzfeldt-Trachenber, and the bride Miss Hana Elizabaty, only daughter of Viscount Aoki.—Viscount I. Ooka, son of the former Feudal Lord of Iwatsuki, died on the 19th.—The British steamer Teucer, 2,564 tons gross, built in 1890, and the Norwegian steamer Noa have been sold to Japanese, the former for 100,000, and the latter for 130,000 yen.—The steamers Chiyo Maru, Riojun Maru, Nanyetsu Maru, and Chishima Maru, have been released from charter by the Government.—The Kobe Social Circle has been broken up.—Instead of 3,000 Korean warriors going to oust the Russians from north-eastern Korea, the Governor of Hamheung is to remove them by fair words.—The Go-as-you-please race at Kobe on the 18th, a distance of between 21 and 22 miles, was won by Mr. Gausden in 3 hours, 13 minutes, and 1 second. He came in 30 mins. 49 secs. ahead of the second man, Thompson.

THE December issue of the "West China Missionary News," published at Chungking, Szechuan, opens with an editorial article dealing with the great events of the closing year, and their influence on the Chinese. It is noted that to cover expenses, the subscription is to be raised in 1905 from one tael to one tael and a-quarter a year. There is a very interesting account by Mr. J. Vale of the special gospel meetings in Chengtu, and the excellent translation of the Chinese legend of the building of Liuyang Bridge is concluded. The story of the means by which Mr. Ch'ai procured the money to complete the bridge is well worth reproducing. It is an excellent piece of satire:—

"After the foundations were declared solid, and the pillars secure, Mr. Ch'ai pushed forward the work rapidly till the arches were completed but then his funds became exhausted and no more money could be raised in the neighbourhood to complete the bridge. For some weeks Mr. Ch'ai endeavoured to raise the sum required, but all his efforts were in vain and the work was brought to a standstill. One day as Mr. Ch'ai was sitting in his house brooding over his difficulties, his servant handed him a piece of paper which he said had been found pasted up on the bridge. Mr. Ch'ai took the paper and read as follows: "To-morrow at noon one of the gods will descend over the Liuyang Bridge; any one who goes to the bridge and succeeds in striking the god with a piece of gold or silver will secure happiness to himself and family." The news that Mr. Ch'ai had received such a notice from the gods was soon noised abroad and by noon of the next day crowds of the wealthy ladies of the district were there to try their luck in striking the god who was expected to descend according to appointment. Exactly at noon, the people who were watching, saw the god floating in the air

and descending towards the bridge. All at once the assembled crowd sent up a great shout which frightened the god and caused it to move off towards the boats anchored in the river. When the crowd saw this they began to throw pieces of gold and silver at the retreating figure; after some time the god began to ascend and the crowd at once recognised it as the Goddess of Mercy; the people then became frantic in their endeavours to strike the goddess and secure the coveted blessing she had promised to the successful. In a short time all their supplies of silver and gold were exhausted and the goddess gradually disappeared out of sight. After the goddess had disappeared the boats anchored below the bridge were found to contain thousands of pieces of gold and silver which when counted up amounted to hundreds of thousands of taels!! Thus Mr. Ch'ai was able to complete the bridge and have a goodly balance left over for his own use."

There are many readable notes from missionary out-stations in the Far West, all testifying to the energy with which the evangelisation of China is being prosecuted. From the Chungking Notes we learn that "the relief crews for the Woodcock and Woodlark arrived on 22nd November, after a disastrous voyage of forty-two days from Ichang, the men having to change into five different junks on the way."

THE increased range of rifles, machine guns, and field artillery, says "Engineering" has generally brought about a complete change in the functions of the respective weapons, and our failures in the earlier stages of the Boer War were due to inability or indisposition to assimilate the new tactics to meet the new conditions. Japan, in her steady advances in Manchuria, is, however, acting more in accordance with the modern state of affairs. In this matter there is, perhaps, a tendency to generalise more or less from isolated cases, but one cannot ignore the teaching of so many experienced European authorities, axiomatically expressed recently, by a Swiss expert:—"Artillery must support the attack of the infantry by its fire, but must never advance in the open under the enemy's fire." The days of the artillery duel pure and simple are over. Should the enemy's guns be discovered, then the long-approved principle of concentrated firing may still be successful; but the enemy will not be easily disposed to unmask his guns, except an obvious advantage is to be gained. Just as the Boer infantry succeeded in minimising their losses by seeking cover at all times, so artillery in the future must seek cover; and it will be, continues "Engineering," the duty of each contending force to destroy not the cover so much, but rather the defenders behind the cover. It is immaterial what the nature of the cover may be. "Any kind of work is good if it serves to render more difficult the enemy's observation," as the German regulation puts it. A Belgian expert has said that the two adversaries will try to hide themselves as much as possible; but it will be necessary for the assailant to end by showing himself if he wants to advance, and for the defender to let his emplacement at least be seen if he wants to repel the attack. Quoting again from the German regulations:—"It is always desirable to protect oneself against the enemy's firing by throwing up works as soon as there is time, even in an offensive

action." In no campaign has this been so fully established as in the recent operations in Manchuria. Every night the Japanese advanced their cover to suit the ground gained in the preceding day's fighting. Again, adds "Engineering," instead of having an independent duel preparatory to infantry operations, the view is that the preparation by the artillery must take place during the actual advance of the infantry. By this means each combatant force will unmask his guns to deter the advance of the opposing infantry. The one branch becomes the support of the other, and hard rapid firing is an essential to success. The infantry, adds "Engineering," will naturally seek cover, advancing by rushes from one shelter to another, and during these rushes through the danger zone the field-guns must be active.

REFERRING to the tunnels under the Hudson River, between New York and Jersey City, "Engineering" says that the operations now in progress are the construction of a tunnel which is to run parallel to the one which was commenced last March, after having been commenced thirty years ago, and abandoned owing to engineering difficulties. These two tunnels will be used for local traffic only; the cars will be similar to those used on the elevated railways of New York. The work is being carried on by means of a shield, compressed air is used, the pressure being 26 lbs. to the square inch. The rate of progress is 50 ft. per day of 24 hours, the remarkable speed of construction being due to the fact that the shield can be forced bodily through the bed of the river without removing material, it being made sufficiently strong for the purpose. One thousand five hundred feet of the new tunnel had been completed, and for this length it was open to the inspection of visitors. The construction of these tunnels cannot fail to have a great and beneficial influence on the social and economic conditions of New York, and will hasten the development of the New Jersey side. Whether it will lead to the reclamation of the vast areas of swampy land across the river remains to be seen, but that it should have that effect is much to be desired.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, ETC.

The Campaign with Kuropatkin. By Douglas Story. London: T. Werner Laurie.

Three books on the war are already announced in London as being "the first" to appear, as if there were a special virtue in immaturity. Mr. Cowen's book we have noticed already; here is Mr. Douglas Story's; the third, by Mr. Palmer, has not yet reached us. It seems unkind to call Mr. Story's a catchpenny book, but this is undoubtedly what it is, and so little value does Mr. Story himself attach to it that he has not taken the trouble to provide it with an index. The publisher has done everything in his power to make it attractive. It is excellently printed on good paper, and illustrated with a large number of capital snapshots. It is bound in white cloth, while on the outside is a representation of the Cross of St. George, "the highest reward in Russia for conspicuous valour in the presence of the enemy." The binding gives the key to

the whole book; it is pro-Russian from start to finish. To Mr. Story the Japanese are still barbarians, and the Russians represent the fine flower of Christian civilisation. The value of Mr. Story's work may be judged by the following statement, which we find on page 177:—

"One form of espionage, which certainly does not commend itself to the correspondent, is the leakage of telegrams throughout all the offices in the East. When I went to Shanghai I was told I need not trouble to go farther, because a sufficient payment would secure me copies of all telegrams passing through the offices there. I and my colleagues tested the truth of this statement, and found it so."

We should have thought the publisher would have hesitated before taking the responsibility of giving to the world such a sweeping charge of malpractice as this. It seems hardly necessary to deny it.

We learn from Mr. Story's somewhat discursive narrative that he went first to Japan, but he quickly discovered that he was not wanted there. Naturally, he had no more good words for Japan, which, he says, "sooner or later, must depend upon the great English-speaking nations for protection from the glacier power of Russia. When that day comes she will turn to the men"—Douglas Story et al.—"who (sic) at the commencement of the war she was thwarting and obstructing, and will marvel at their unresponsiveness. Japan acclaims to the world her civilisation and her progress. They are but the lacquer on her barbarism. Liberty of thought, of opinion, of action, is unknown in Nippon. A free Press were as much a marvel in Japan as a mastodon in Hyde Park. Comment is crushed, criticism killed in Japan. The man who would speak his mind fairly and freely must place the Yellow Sea between him and the Mikado ere he write one word in opposition." If such stuff as this is really a reflection of Mr. Story's views, we cannot wonder at his passing promptly over to the Russian side, and making his book a glorification of the Russians. From General Kuropatkin to Ivan Ivanovitch, though the latter is so ignorant that he "may not know that he is fighting the Japanese," the Russian army is a band of heroes "forecertain of ultimate success . . . General Kuropatkin knows his strength, and will sacrifice none of it to the spectacular exuberance at first imposed upon his enemy. The Japanese are fighting for the world's sympathy and the world's approbation. Russia is fighting for victory and for herself."—To the plain man it would seem that the Japanese have been fighting a little for victory, too.—"That her soldiers are faithful and her Generals confident suffices her. She can spare the empty triumph of her theatrical assaults. 'La gloire' appears neither in the Russian soldier's vocabulary nor in the General's conversation. The ultimate object is the thing, and that object is the open air, the open sea, the emancipation of the peasant. For these things all Russians are fighting, and in General Kuropatkin is personified the national purpose." There are pages of such bloterature as this; it may be hinted that when Mr. Story makes the absurd statement that the emancipation of the peasant is the object of the war, he has confused object with result; it is by no means impossible that that emancipation will be one of the results of the war. But if Kuropatkin is the great, self-contained, silent soldier, a strategist of infinite patience and precision, like

Napoleon and Melike, Grant and Kit-chener, to all of whom Mr. Story likens him, who did write the proclamation about taking the offensive before the battle of the Shaho?

Ex-viceroy Alexieff is another of Mr. Story's heroes. We should understand his claim to be a damoged a little better if Mr. Story were a little more consistent. He tells us in one place that Alexieff lives the life of an ascetic, is simple of habit and devoid of ostentation, and in another place that he lives in almost regal state. He stands, we are told, for a policy. "It is no selfish policy. It is no antagonistic policy. It is a policy inspired by the desire to combine Russia's interests with the interests of the other Powers. Viceroy Alexieff will retreat from nothing that he stated prior to the outbreak of hostilities. His policy then is his policy now. It is the policy of his Imperial Master, the policy he was sent to the Orient to execute in virtue of his office as Viceroy. I have his Excellency's authority for stating that that policy is a permanent one wholly unaffected by the incidents of the war. I seek no better guarantee."

Valueless as the book is as a record of the war, it is thoroughly readable, and the numerous snapshots it contains add greatly to its interest. The last, labelled "The Retreat," is the most pathetic of all. What action it refers to we are left to guess; but the retreating force consists of four men, one carrying a wounded comrade, struggling painfully across a plain or a frozen river, and it must have required some nerve to ask them to stop to be photographed. The same four men appear in another snapshot as "Stragglers." Unfortunately there is no reference to any of the photographs in the text.

MOKANSHAN.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

20th December.

The Weather.

While it has been cold, the snowfall at the time of writing has not been excessive. Workmen have had good weather as a rule for the new houses under construction. The autumn is by far the best time to build. Repairs also provide against the winter weather.

Paper-making.

Recently, while itinerating south and west of Mokanshan, your correspondent reached a section where the cost of transportation prohibits marketing bamboo in bulk, though the creeks with hardly as much as three inches of water still admit the piling of light rafts which bring down paper made by very primitive methods. It seems that they soak sections of bamboo in lime vats for several months, select the inside for pulp, with a sort of hand strainer, and gather up enough of the solution for a single sheet at a time. The fibre is quite adhesive, so the sheets can be handled separately, they are dried by sticking to the outside of a furnace, pressed, counted, and baled. Like many other Chinese trades, the workman begins with the raw material and himself delivers the finished product. The people are fairly prosperous and invest their money as a rule in substantial houses and rice lands in the nearest plains. Robbers make hoarded money unsafe.

Local Characteristics.

The mountain population as a rule are hardy, healthy, hospitable, and intelligent. Many of them travel to sell their paper

and bring back with articles of foreign manufacture as they can transport and use.

A Cotton Gin.

Coming back your correspondent saw a foot power cotton gin made in Japan; each operator can turn out about 100 pounds per day. It may be interesting to note that the Japanese are finding out what the Chinese will buy and are making efforts to supply them.

Interior Trade.

While as missionaries we are not concerned with commercial matters directly, we cannot but notice changes going on about us and observe that if Western people propose to supply the Chinese with goods at a profit there is need for a thoroughly intelligent appreciation of inland markets. Out-of-date business methods will not win the commerce of China against such alert competitors as the Japanese any more than obsolete battle-ships may hope for maritime supremacy.

A Reminder.

It will soon be time to pay the grain tax on property at Mokanshan; the prudent lot-owner is prompt in such matters.

JAPAN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Tokio, 22nd December.

Port Arthur.

The capture of another fort at East Chikuanshan at Port Arthur encourages the hope of an early taking of the whole stronghold and seems to portend that the end is drawing near, so far as the "Kuantung Garrison" is concerned. The Japanese have never despaired of the success of the besiegers, but the fortitude of the defenders and the prolongation of the siege, which exceeds by months the most liberal estimate of the time required to accomplish the reduction of the "impregnable stronghold," has been a source of deep regret, combined with the loss of life and disappointments over the fact that the siege has occupied such a large force of men, decreasing Marshal Oyama's strength at a time when he needed every available man at the front. But the latest success, coupled with the recent capture of the 203-metre hill, is causing a decided sense of relief in Tokio. The Japanese cross-fire is expedited by the occupation of the north foot of Eastern Chikuanshan and the Japanese are thereby drawn nearer to the Chinese walls. The besiegers are now able to plunge at the east inner harbour, as well as a greater part of the old town within the range of about 3,000 metres. On the other hand, the occupation of the Yangshufang fort, south of the 203-metre hill, seems to be of some significance. When the Japanese guns are successfully installed there, the besiegers may cut off the communication between the town and Liaotian. There is reason to believe that operations approaching every direction in the fortress are now steadily and harmoniously proceeding.

The Fourth General Attack.

Japanese correspondents at Port Arthur write that the general attack on Port Arthur at the close of November was intended to capture the Sungshu-shan, Erlungshan and East Chikuan-shan; otherwise, the whole of the north-eastern section. The attack was fixed to commence on the 20th, and on the 22nd a rescript from the Emperor was granted

to General Baron Nogi. It referred to the great strength of the fortress, natural strength supplemented by all the devices of modern science, the result being a stronghold to which His Majesty applied the old Chinese epithet of a castle of gold in a lake of boiling water. The Emperor said that he knew well how hard the Third Army had laboured and how much it had suffered, and that he was anxious day and night for their well-being. He, however, believed that the situation on sea and on shore did not permit the continual tenure of Port Arthur by the enemy, and His Majesty, while rejoicing to learn that the moment for attack had come, felt assured of the vigour with which it would be prosecuted, and prayed for its success. This is understood to be the first instance of a message from the Sovereign to his troops on the eve of a great engagement. It need scarcely be said that General Nogi, replying in behalf of the army, engaged that, in view of the Imperial instructions, officers and men would spare no exertions.

The 203-Metre Fort.

It is stated that the commander of the Russian garrison at the 203-metre hill was a Colonel of Artillery, and after the Japanese occupation of the battery on the 30th November, the enemy made nine counter-attacks up to the 5th inst. But on the 4th December the Colonel was killed by Japanese shell and replaced by a Lieutenant of the Navy. The latter did his best, but owing to his inability to maintain uniform movements with other batteries, the High hill was ultimately occupied by the Japanese on the morning of the 5th inst. Subsequently the Russians abandoned several neighbouring eminences and stopped to fire on the Japanese camp in that direction. According to the observation from the Japanese picket station, the above-mentioned Colonel seems to have always prevented the demoralisation of his substitutes, installing machine guns in the retreat and threatening to kill them with drawn swords.

While on the subject, it may be noted that the steamer Kinai Maru arrived at Moji on Friday last with ten Russians taken prisoner at Port Arthur. Among them were an army Captain and a Naval Engineer, who were captured at the 203-metre hill. The Engineer was captured in a small house at the base of the hill. He had been concealed in the house when the Russians retreated from the elevation and he was surrounded by the Japanese before he could follow. The prisoner speaks English slightly, and during the voyage he was informed of the total destruction of the Port Arthur squadron, but showed no surprise at the news. On the contrary he said the destruction of the squadron did not matter at all. Russia had plenty more warships.

Major-General Nakamura

returned to Tokio on Sunday evening. It is now stated that the object of the special force under the gallant General was to advance from Suishiyong down the highway on the west of the railway and to emerge at Peiyushan, which lies within the enceinte and in rear of the eastern and northern forts. Had this place fallen into the hands of the Japanese, the fortress would have been practically cut in two. His men were duly armed with rifles, but they were under orders not to fire before the first object of the assault was attained, namely, the capture of the subsidiary fort at Peiyushan; to that time the bayonet alone was to be em-

ployed, so as to utilise the darkness. The force is said to have numbered a thousand of all ranks, and the instructions were that no man should expect to return alive without effecting the main purpose, and anyone who attempted to retreat without reason was to be decapitated at once. Full care was taken to designate the succession of officers in the event of the leaders being struck down. On the departure of this forlorn hope at 9 p.m. on the 26th, General Nogi was pleased to bid a special send-off. Of course, as the configuration of the ground must have shown beforehand, this force found itself under search-lights and became the cynosure of rifle and machine-gun fire from Sungshushan, Itzeshan, and Peiyushan. Nevertheless it seems to have advanced with unflinching resolution and it actually forced its way forward against these deadly conditions until nearly midnight, when an order arrived from General Nogi recalling them, as the time was not ripe. It is hardly necessary to notice that this force suffered very heavily and the Major-General was wounded shortly after the advance; then he sang a song with tears in eyes to the effect that he had never minded his own body, but the failure of the programme was his deep regret.

The Shaho Front.

A Japanese officer is quoted as saying that the present state of the enemy on the Shaho is materially unchanged and the Russian main force remains at Tashan on the left bank of the Shaho. General Kuropatkin is desirous of strengthening his troops, but the transportation power of the Siberian railway is insufficient to fulfil his project as yet. The Russians have of late been firing on the Japanese positions for the purpose of reconnoitring the distribution of troops, and therefore, the Japanese have not returned the fire. But the Russians have now been thoroughly made aware of the strength and position of the Japanese and seem to have understood that the offensive is yet impossible. Russian reinforcements are steadily arriving in the direction of Fushun to extend the left wing, while the right is also being strengthened. The Russians are apparently contemplating an attack on the rear of the Japanese right wing, as they tried in the last Shaho battle, but there are not yet signs of any decisive movements of the Russian Army. Under these circumstances it is impossible for the Japanese officers concerned to anticipate when the situation will be developed. After the battle of the Shaho General Kuropatkin probably attempted to reassume the offensive by receiving superior reinforcements, but a marked change seems likely to have now occurred in his original plan.

Stoessel's Overture.

With reference to the recent correspondence between Stoessel and Nogi, a Yokohama paper asserts that the besieged General has no manner of right to ask that any place lying within the zone of fire directed against the fortress, or any place whose immunity would strengthen the defence, shall be guaranteed against bombardment. As Bismarck retorted to a foreign complaint at the time of the Franco-Prussian war, shells have no eyes. As may be seen in consulting the map, in the new town of Port Arthur there are situated such buildings as the naval office, two barracks of large capacity, the municipal office, the headquarters of the Kuantung Army, the offices of the civil administration, the hotel, the market, and so forth.

In the north-east section of the old town are the court-house, the telegraph office, a barrack, the Viceregal office, and the arsenal. The idea of exempting these buildings seems to be astounding and monstrous. But even more absurd does the proposal become when the trace of the batteries is observed, for it will then be seen that an engagement to exclude the new town from the range of fire would secure the whole of the batteries on the western face of the enceinte, as well as the Tiger's Tail forts; and an engagement to exclude the north-east of the old town would give immunity to nearly the whole of the forts on the east. That these overtures should be rejected forthwith by the Japanese was a foregone conclusion. It devolves upon Stoessel alone to provide bomb-proof shelter for sick or wounded or to remove them out of the zone of fire. The object of the Russians in making the above proposal, is alleged to be to create some pretext for fixing a stigma of inhumanity upon the Japanese troops, in default of ability to hold the fortress much longer.

The Diet

The labours of the Diet are now virtually completed. It was not unnatural that the details of the proposed resources for the war estimates should provoke some strong criticism on the part of the Lower House especially measures that threaten to bear heavily on the agricultural land interests, while certain industries selected for extra imposts endeavoured to have the burden shifted or lightened. The Cabinet, however, stuck to their guns in maintaining that the total of their war estimates was the minimum required, although they were not averse to considering criticisms and amendments as to ways and means of providing the total. As a matter of fact, the general Budget was pared down by a reduction of a half-million yen on appropriations for the Army and Navy and rather more than a million yen curtailed from appropriations for administrative expenditure, and, with that, the "bone" had been reached and the parties were left in harmony with the Cabinet. The proceedings in the Lower House on Saturday certainly presented the form of a debate, but it was a hollow form. The party men were apparently obliged to make a showing to satisfy their constituents, but the real battle was over; it had taken place in Committee and there was no more to be done. Some credit, however, should also be given to the partisans for a measure of patriotic restraint in a time of special urgency and great Government responsibility. Altogether, the Japanese people are to be congratulated that the two great parties have virtually approved the Ministerial war bills and especially that the War Budget has undergone no retrenchment. Having once stood the test of this representative crucible, the adoption of these War Estimates exhibits the country as firmly united on the question of finding adequate funds for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and this condition cannot fail to confirm the country's credit abroad. Now that the Lower House has disposed of all the important measures, the Upper House will have little to do but to pass the war bills as approved by the popular branch of the Legislature.

The Bank of Japan has raised by two rins its rate of interest. It is said that there is a growing demand for capital encouraging an augmentation of currency. But the general conditions of foreign trade and domestic commerce are not badly affected.

the Front.

It is stated that up to the end of October the number of Japanese soldiers who were killed in action, died of wounds, or succumbed to disease was twenty thousand in all. This covers the whole field, including Port Arthur. The fatal casualties in or after battles aggregated sixteen thousand and the deaths from disease four thousand. This is a very remarkable showing. Generally the deaths from disease far exceed those caused by bullet or bayonet, but in the case of the Japanese army the deaths from disease were only twenty per cent. of the total casualties. The naval fatalities since the outbreak of hostilities are 1,544, but those who succumbed to ordinary disease are less than in peace time and are only 72 in all, including three drowned. It is especially noticeable that none of the sailors have yet been called to death by beri-beri.

Diplomatic Personalities.

Mr. D. W. Stevens, Japanese Diplomatic adviser to Corea, left Kobe on Friday last by the steamer Ohio, and arrived at Seoul on Thursday.

Mr. Y. Uchida, Japanese Minister to Peking, to whom reference has recently been made in your columns, returned to Tokio on the 22nd inst.

One of the prettiest weddings that Tokio has ever witnessed took place at the Roman Catholic Church on Monday last, when Miss Hana Elizabeth Aoki, only daughter of Viscount Aoki, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, was married to Count Alexander von Hatzfeldt-Trachenberg.

H. I. H. Prince Fushimi arrived at San Francisco en route for home on the 20th inst.

At the British Consulate-General, Yokohama, a Naval Court of Inquiry was held on Wednesday morning relating to the stranding of the British steamer Inverness at Muroran, Hokkaido, on the 25th November. It was adjudged that the casualty was due to the wrong act of the Master, but having regard to all the circumstances of the case, more particularly to the fact that the damage done was light—so far as is known the hull is undamaged—the Court does not deal with his certificate, but cautions him to be more careful in future. It appears from the Master's evidence that he has been in poor health for a year past and that the difficult passage from Tacoma and the subsequent events have shaken his nerves and he has expressed a desire to retire from his present command. The other officers and crew of the vessel were found free from blame. The expenses of the Court were to be paid by the Master.

SATURDAY'S PAPER HUNT.

On Saturday the fourth Paper Hunt of the season was run. The paper was laid by Messrs. L. N. Leefe and A. W. Burkill.

- 1.—Mr. F. B. Pitcairn Sultan.
- 2.—" S. S. Sellick Cyclone.
- 3.—" O. F. Johnston Kingfisher.
- 4.—" F. A. Gumming A Griffin.
- 5.—" A. J. H. Carill Marvel.
- 6.—" G. Ebbecke Faith.
- 7.—" George Dallas Mascotte.
- 8.—" David Landale Nithsdale.

Mr. L. Dallas won the heavy weight prize.

BANQUET TO MR. JOHN GOODNOW.

Interesting Gathering Last Night.

During his eight years' residence in Shanghai Mr. John Goodnow has been associated with many public and semi-public bodies, but with none more happily than with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasons, of which he was instrumental three years ago in establishing a lodge in Shanghai, over which he has lately presided as V. M. K. As is generally known Mr. Goodnow is leaving for home on Saturday on affairs connected with his office of American Consul-General here, and the members of the Rite took the opportunity last night to show their appreciation of his services, to express their confidence in him, and to wish him a pleasant voyage and speedy return. The banquet at the Astor House was something of an innovation from a Masonic point of view for the tables were graced by the presence of many ladies and there were a number of other non-Masonic guests as well. Altogether more than a hundred sat down in the long private dining room, which had been beautifully and effectively decorated with greenery, flowers and electric lamps, as well as with banners and other insignia of the Order.

The arrangements were made by a committee consisting of Brothers S. R. Gale, C. F. Gammon, E. I. Ezra, Chas. Sturmman, and Ivor Thomas; and Bro. George A. Derby, as Prior, occupied the chair.

The toast list was a brief one, but the Chairman, as was fitting with so many strangers present, dilated on the principles of the Order and of the Scottish Rite more particularly. Bro. Fobes proposed the toast of the evening, and in response Bro. Goodnow made a characteristically incisive speech. He dwelt on the stirring events which have made history in Shanghai during the last eight years and said he had been proud and happy to play a part in them; spoke of the harmonious relations between all the fifteen nations officially represented in Shanghai; paid a tribute to the interest of H. E. Sheng Kung-pao in the welfare of the Settlement; and then addressed himself more particularly to the members of the Rite, who included men of all nations and creeds united in the great bond of Freemasonry. He expressed his thanks for the compliment paid him in the banquet and said that next to his wife, whom he is leaving behind, it would be the Masons of Shanghai that he would most look forward to greet on his return in about three months' time. The "guests" and more particularly the "ladies" provided a congenial theme to Messrs. E. I. Ezra, the Hon. J. W. Davidson, C. F. Gammon, and W. P. Bentley in subsequent speeches.

Among those who contributed peculiarly to the harmony of a particularly harmonious evening were Mrs. C. F. Gammon, who gave piano solos and accompanied the vocalists, Mrs. Lanphier, Miss F. V. Fobes and Bro. C. Lalcaca who sang, and Bro. B. P. Lalcaca, who gave a mandoline solo.

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IMPERIAL DECREES.

(BY TELEGRAPH FROM PEKING.)
SPECIALLY TRANSLATED FOR THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.")

28th December.

(1) Decree in response to memorial of Ts'ao Hung-hsun, Acting Governor of Kueichow province, denouncing Liu Shih-wang, former Acting Major-General of the Kueichow Circuit, of said province, for pocketing the pay of his troops and other acts defrauding the Government. The accused, who has since returned to his native province of Hunan, is commanded to be cashiered of his rank and titles and the Governor of Hunan is commanded to arrest the man and send him under escort to Kueichow province to stand his trial for his misdeeds.

(2) En Shun is appointed Chief Proof-reader of the Manchu edition of the Dynastic History, now being compiled at the Historiographer's Office.

NOTES ON NATIVE AFFAIRS.

30th December.

The Mixed Court Magistracy.

We hear that owing to the ever increasing number of appeals to him by litigants of all classes complaining about the dilatory and unsystematic methods permitted by the present incumbent of the International Mixed Court, Yuan Taotai of this port recently instructed Mr. Wang, the Shanghai City Magistrate, to make a personal investigation of the cases filed at the Mixed Court awaiting settlement at the hands of that Magistrate. In his report to the Taotai the Shanghai Magistrate stated that he was perfectly astounded at the abnormal number of unsettled cases at the Mixed Court, there being over three hundred of them, and many of them very important and involving large sums of money. To make matters more bewildering, it appeared that the incumbent of the Court in question had scarcely any idea of these cases, owing to the fact that, for reasons best known to themselves, which are too obvious to anyone knowing anything of Chinese yaméns to need reiteration here, the scribes and runners who control things generally under this Magistrate kept back these cases and did not consider it worth their while to report their existence to his Worship. This deplorable state of affairs has been reported to Yuan Taotai and it is also reported at the Taotai's yamén that the Mixed Court Magistrate has asked to be allowed to resign, owing to inability to keep up with matters, and other physical disabilities. Amongst the complaints sent to the Taotai there are many really serious charges over and above the foregoing. We understand that the matter has been reported to the high provincial authorities, as the Chinese Chamber of Commerce have also made a number of strong charges against the Magistrate.

The Bund Murder.

The leading Ningpo gentry and merchants residing in Shanghai have sent a telegram to Prince Ching and the Ministers of the Waiwupu to the effect that, owing to the action of the Russian Consul-General in Shanghai in handling the two Russian sailors of the Askold, guilty of the murder of the Ningpo man Chou Seng-yu, back to their own officers without first notifying the Shanghai Taotai, and because, in spite of the repeated demands of the said Shanghai Taotai upon the said Consul-General for the persons of the murderers in order that they should be

put to trial before a mixed tribunal, the said Consul-General has completely ignored said demands, there is great indignation amongst the Ningpo population in Shanghai which may at any moment break out into active protests at the injustice of the Russians, who after all are prisoners of the Chinese Government and therefore amenable to the laws of the country, in accordance with International Law. Furthermore, half a month has elapsed since the murder, and seeing nothing being done the Ningpo population of the rougher and lower orders have attempted to hold several indignation mass meetings, but they have so far been kept down with difficulty by the petitioners sending this telegram. There are, however, many murmurs circulating about amongst the petitioners' fellow-provincials, who charge the petitioners with timidity and incapability, so that there are just fears that as a first step there will be a general strike, or closing up of shops and hongs, thereby causing a serious stoppage of trade and setting at large crowds of disaffected men, in which case the petitioners will be perfectly at a loss what to do in the matter. Finally, had this been instead a case where a Chinese had killed a foreigner serious international complications would certainly have arisen long ere this. In a word, the principles of neutrality have been broken in this matter and the petitioners must pray the Prince and Ministers of the Waiwupu to demand without delay from the Russian Minister in Peking that instructions be sent to the Russian Consul at Shanghai to hand over the guilty sailors, so that they may take their trial before a Mixed Tribunal. Only in this manner can the populace be calmed down and unexpected outbreaks be prevented. The above telegram is signed by the same gentlemen who sent out an express to the people of Shanghai, the gist of which appeared in this column, the other day, namely, Taorais Shên Tun-ho, Yü Ya ching, Yen Hsiao-fang, etc., etc. A similar telegram was also sent to H.E. Viceroy Chou Fu, at Nanking.

A Proposed New Province.

It was reported in local mandarin circles yesterday that Governor Tuan Fang has memorialised the Throne advising that, owing to the difficulty hitherto experienced by the provincial authorities at Nanking in properly governing the turbulent population and developing the rich mineral resources of the region known as Chiangpeh (Kiangpeh, or North of the Yangtze), the prefecture of Hsüchou, which also includes Taingkiangpu and a large portion of the region drained by the Grand Canal, and certain outlying portions in Anhui province, be reorganised and made into another province, with a Governor of its own, but remaining as usual a dependency of the Liangkiang Viceroyalty.

THE SUPREME COURT.

The New Judge.

When the Supreme Court was first established in Shanghai, the lamented Sir Edmund Hornby was taken from Constantinople to organise it, and he was our first Chief Justice. To find a successor to Sir Hiram Wilkinson, whose departure will be universally regretted, the Government have reverted to the first precedent, and from Constantinople comes Mr. Havilland Walter de Saumarez, who is expected to enter on his duties here on the 1st of April next. His record, as taken from the "Foreign Office List," 1904, is as under:—

SAUMAREZ, HAVILLAND WALTER DE, is a B.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge; called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, 17th November, 1884; Acting Queen's Advocate of the Colony of Lagos from June, 1891, to January, 1892; appointed one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Zanzibar, 10th June, 1892; and also Assistant Consular Judge, 31st July, 1893; and was Acting Judge from 31st July, 1896, to 27th September, 1897. Appointed Assistant Judge of Her Majesty's Court for Zanzibar, 14th July, 1897. Nominated to be Assistant Judge at Constantinople, 6th December, 1897; and appointed Assistant Judge of Her Majesty's Supreme Consular Court for the Dominions of the Sublime Ottoman Porte, in accordance with the Ottoman Order in Council, 1899, 1st March, 1900. Was Acting Judge from December, 1898 to September, 1899; from 1st June to 17th November, 1901; and from 28th November, 1902, to 31st March, 1903. Appointed Judge of His Majesty's Supreme Consular Court for the Dominions of the Sublime Ottoman Porte, 1st April, 1903.

CALENDARS, ETC., RECEIVED.

From the China and Japan Trading Co., Ltd., the Shanghai agents, a hanging calendar with useful general information, issued by the Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. of San Francisco.

BISHOP ROOTS.

The "Boston Daily Transcript" of the 18th ult. gives the following interesting facts in regard to the consecration, in Emmanuel Church, Boston, of the Rev. Logan Roots, B.A., as Missionary Bishop of Hankow.

In the procession as it proceeded into the church at the hour of eleven o'clock there were several bishops and priests. The candidate for Episcopal honours was accompanied by his two presbyters, the Rev. Gouverneur F. Mosher of St. John's College, Shanghai, China, and the Rev. Herman Page of Chicago. In the procession also were Bishop Frederick E. Graves, D. D., of Shanghai, China, who was the consecrator; Bishop John McKim, D. D., of Tokio, Japan, and Bishop William N. McVicker, D. D., of Rhode Island who were the co-consecrators; Bishop William Lawrence, D. D., of Massachusetts and Bishop Sidney C. Partridge, D. D. of Kyoto, Japan, who were the presenting bishops; also Bishop Alexander H. Vinton, D. D., Western Massachusetts, and Bishop James H. Van Buren, D. D., of Porto Rico. In advance of the clergy marched the vested choir of Emmanuel, which sang as a processional. "O Zion, Haste," by Walch. Arthur S. Hyde, the organist of Emmanuel, presided at the instrument, and also acted as choir-master throughout the service. In the procession also marched a large body of seminarians from the Episcopal Theological School.

At the conclusion of the sermon, by Bishop Lawrence, "O Spirit of the Living God" was sung. The bishop-elect concluded the steps of the chancel, vested in his rochet, and was formally presented to the presiding bishop, who occupied his episcopal seat in the centre near the communion rail. Testimonials having been demanded these were presented by the Rev. John J. McCook, D. D., of Hartford, for the House of Bishops; by the Rev. George Hodges, D. D., dean of the Episcopal Theological School, for the House of Deputies; and by the Rev. Edward Abbott,

D. D., of Cambridge, who presented the commission to consecrate.

Following came the promise of conformity to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church; the presiding bishop offered the usual prayers; and the litany was recited by Bishop Partridge, the prescribed suffrage for "our brother elected" being used in its proper place. After the examination of the Rev. Mr. Roots, the choir was heard in the anthem, "They that wait upon the Lord," by A. S. Hyde; and the remainder of the consecration service was carried out in the usual way, the "Veni Creator Spiritus" being intoned by the seven bishops standing over the bishop-elect, who meanwhile had been vested with the rest of the Episcopal habit in the sacristy. Each laid his hands upon Mr. Roots's head as he knelt in their midst, the prayer beginning, "Receive the Holy Ghost," was said in unison; Bishop Graves presented him with the Bible, the symbol of ecclesiastical authority; and Mr. Roots was then admitted to full communion with his fellow prelates of the Church, and took his place within the communion rail.

At the conclusion of the service when the procession had returned to the chapel, Bishop Roots was made the recipient of numerous gifts, which came to him as one of the most delightful features of the day. A beautiful communion service for use in the Cathedral at Hankow was the gift of the alumni of the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge, from which institution Bishop Roots was graduated in 1896; the present students of the same school presented him with a bishop's agenda, while St. Paul's Society, connected with Harvard University, gave him a bishop's ring, which, however, will not be engraved with the seal of the missionary diocese of Hankow until some appropriate design is selected. A Bible, beautifully bound in crushed levant and appropriately inscribed, came from Bishop Roots's father, P. K. Roots, who was a lay deputy from Arkansas to the recent General Convention; while a personal friend presented him with a copy of the Prayer Book, also bound in crushed levant and appropriately inscribed.

THE NORTH SEA ENQUIRY.

TEXT OF THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

London, 27th November.

The Foreign Office has issued the following English translation of the declaration signed at St. Petersburg by Sir Charles Hardinge, the British Ambassador, and Count Lamsdorff, the Russian Foreign Minister:

"His Britannic Majesty's Government and the Imperial Russian Government having agreed to enter into an international commission of inquiry, assembled conformably with Articles IX to XIV of The Hague Convention of July 29th, 1899, for the pacific settlement of international disputes, the task of elucidating by means of an impartial and conscientious investigation the questions of fact connected with the incident which occurred during the night of October 21-22, 1904, in the North Sea (on which occasion the firing of guns on the Russian fleet caused the loss of a boat and death of two persons belonging to a British fishing fleet, as well as damages to other boats of that fleet and injuries to the crews of some of those boats), the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto have agreed upon the following provisions.

"Article I.—The international commission of inquiry shall be composed of five members (commissioners) of whom two shall be officers of high rank in the British and Imperial Russian navies, respectively.

The governments of France and of the United States shall each be requested to select one of their naval officers of high rank as a member of the commission. The fifth member shall be chosen by agreement between the four members above mentioned; in the event of no agreement being arrived at between the four commissioners as to the selection of a fifth member of the commission, his Imperial and Royal Majesty, the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, will be invited to select him. Each of the two high contracting parties shall likewise appoint a legal assessor to advise the commissioners, and an agent officially empowered to take part in the labours of the commission.

"Article II.—The commission shall inquire into and report all circumstances relative to the North Sea incident and particularly on the question as to where the responsibility lies and the degree of blame attaching to subjects of the two high contracting parties or to subjects of other countries in the event of their responsibility being established by the inquiry.

"Article III.—The commission shall settle the details of procedure which it will follow for the purpose of accomplishing the task with which it has been entrusted.

"Article IV.—The two high contracting parties undertake to supply the commission to the utmost of their ability with all the means and facilities necessary in order to enable it to acquaint itself thoroughly and appreciate correctly the matters in dispute.

"Article V.—The commission shall assemble in Paris as soon as possible after the signature of this agreement.

"Article VI.—The commission shall present its report to the two high contracting parties, signed by all the members of the commission.

"Article VI.—The commission shall make all its decisions by a majority of the votes of the five commissioners.

"Article VIII.—The two high contracting parties undertake each to bear on reciprocal terms the expense of the inquiry made by it previous to the assembly in organising its staff, and the cost of conducting the investigations which it will have to make shall be equally shared by the two Governments.

"In faith whereof, the undersigned have signed the present agreement (declaration) and affixed their seals to it.

"Done in duplicate at St. Petersburg November 25th 1904."

London, 28th November.

Regret is expressed in the London morning newspapers that there is no provision in the Anglo-Russian convention for the punishment of those who may be found responsible for the Dogger Bank affair, and the "Morning Post" sarcastically declares that Great Britain has created a precedent for permitting foreign navies to fire on British vessels with virtual impunity; otherwise the editorial articles merely echo previously expressed opinions.—"Kobe Herald."

H. B. M. POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 29th December.

Before J. C. E. DOUGLAS, Esq., Police Magistrate.

R. v. JAMES HUGHES.

James Hughes, an able seaman from the P. & O. S. Malta, was charged with being absent from his ship without leave on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last.

His Worship asked if the warrant issued for accused's arrest had been executed.

John Borland, first mate of the Malta, said accused had returned of his own accord at 4 p.m. on the previous day and was arrested when he did so.

Accused admitted that he had been absent without leave, but said that Sunday was Christmas and Monday a holiday and he did not think there was any harm in going ashore then. It was usual to ask leave before doing so.

John Borland, sworn, said that accused was an able seaman and that he had had no complaints against him before. The seamen generally got Christmas leave, but accused was one of the three who took it in turns to watch the gangway. On Sunday and Monday prisoner's mates took his watches and witness therefore took no notice of his absence until Tuesday.

Accused said he had always arranged it that way before.

His Worship remarked that prisoner was liable to forfeit two days' pay, and two days' pay for every 24 hours' absence, and also imprisonment.

Accused said it was holiday time and he got a drop too much drink or he would not have behaved as he had done.

Mr. Borland said that accused had been a very satisfactory man ever since he had joined the ship.

His Worship, taking into consideration accused's good character, said that he would not punish him. Accused would merely have to pay the costs of the warrant. If he was charged again he would be heavily fined, or imprisoned, or both.

THE MIXED COURT.

Shanghai, 29th December.

Before Mr. HUANG HUEEN (Magistrate) and Mr. HIGGS (Acting British Assessor)
The Anti-Foreign Crusade.

Mow Pah-zue, of Honan Road, Zun Keh-foh, of Sinza Road, Wong Chung-sha, of Shantung Road, and Per Sze-zeh, of Canton Road—all described as book-sellers—were again before the Court, on a charge of being concerned together in unlawfully circulating anti-foreign literature within the limits of the Settlement on various dates during the year 1904.

Mr. F. Ellis appeared for the defence of the first, third, and last-mentioned prisoners, and Mr. A. L. Ahlo appeared to defend the prisoner, Zun Keh-foh.

The cross-examination of Detective-Inspector McDowell by Mr. Ellis was continued.

The witness said there were no seditious books in Wong Chung-sha's shop in Shantung Road so far as he could see. Wong was in charge of the shop, the real proprietor being, it was said, in Ningpo. Witness asked for the account books of the shop and initialed the part of them which he examined. He did not ask a lot of unnecessary questions, as he got all the proof he wanted from the books themselves. With reference to the broker who sold the books ("Alarming Bell") to the shopkeeper. The broker came to the shop while witness was there, and told witness that he bought the books from a shop in Honan Road. On examination of the books of the Honan Road shop, witness found that five hundred "Alarming Bells" had passed through their hands. They had been received from a printing establishment in Sinza.

By Mr. Ahlo—Witness went to the printing office in Sinza, and found Zun Keh-foh there. He was in charge of

the books, and admitted that he had sold a consignment of five hundred "Alarming Bells" to the shop in Honan Road and received the money for them. Witness did not know if Zun was the proprietor of the printing office. At any rate he was not charged with being the proprietor. The four defendants were simply charged with circulating this seditious literature, and witness submitted that it had been satisfactorily proved.

The Chinese detective who accompanied Detective-Inspector McDowell when the accused were arrested, gave evidence corroborative of the Inspector's statement.

Mr. Ellis said he did not propose to call any witnesses for the defence of his clients.

Mr. Ahlo called the defendant Zun Keh-foh, who said that he was a collector, or shroff, employed at the Sinza printing office and had held that position for some time. He also collected for other business establishments. He was not the proprietor of the printing establishment.

Another native witness, called by Mr. Ahlo, said he also was a shroff at the printing office and remembered a partnership agreement being executed by the present proprietors and the late owner, and also a bill of sale being executed by the late owner. (The partnership agreement and bill of sale were produced and identified by the witness.) Zun Keh-foh's name did not appear in either of those documents as either late or present owner.

Mr. Ellis said he had very few words to say in addressing the Court on behalf of his clients. With regard to the defendant Wong Chung-sha, he asked the Court to see how far the charge made by Police had been supported by the evidence. The charge read: "Being concerned together in unlawfully circulating anti-foreign literature within the limits of the Settlement on various dates during the year 1904." Before the Court could find Wong guilty, it would have to be satisfied as to the responsible position held in the shop by Wong. Inspector McDowell had said that Wong was in charge in the absence of the proprietor. There was no evidence before the Court, however, as to when the proprietor went away, or as to whether Wong was in charge when the books came to the shop, nor yet as to whether Wong had sold any of the books. At the last sitting, Inspector McDowell gave evidence that a Chinese subject went to the shop and bought six books. When Counsel asked who the man was, McDowell declined to state, saying that if he stated the man's name, the latter would be in immediate danger of assassination. Counsel supposed this statement was made with the idea of giving some importance to the case, and not to bring home the charge against the prisoners. On that point the Court gave a ruling, which counsel thought was correctly reported in the "North-China Daily News" as follows:—"The Court said they could not force the witness to answer the question, but if he did not, they would have to strike out of the record all that had been stated about the native purchasing the books and simply record that the witness received twelve books from some person unknown to the Court." Counsel thought he had made it clear that there was no evidence that Wong was in charge of the shop when the books came there, and no evidence that Wong sold any of the books to anyone; therefore the charge might just as well have been brought against all the other employees of the shop. For these reasons, and on the evidence itself, Coun-

sel asked that the case against Wong be dismissed.

During Mr. Ellis's address, the Magistrate had ordered Wong to stand in front of the Bench, and before Mr. Ellis proceeded further, Inspector McDowell claimed the right to question Wong.

Mr. Ellis strongly objected, saying that Wong had not been called as a witness for the defence.

Inspector McDowell said it was necessary to question Wong, particularly as the present Assessor, Mr. Higgs, was not present at the last sitting.

The Assessor stated that, although he was not present at the previous hearing, he had full notes of the evidence before him.

Continuing, Mr. Ellis said that his other two clients carried on the trade of booksellers, and Inspector McDowell himself had said that from enquiries made and information received, the prisoners were carrying on a legitimate and respectable book-selling business. It was quite natural that the prisoners might have sold books without a knowledge of their contents. One fact that went strongly to prove that they were unaware of the character of the literature was, that they were quite prepared to give the Police all information in their power. Counsel would therefore ask the Court to look upon the matter somewhat leniently. The evidence showed that the prisoners were not in the habit of selling such literature. Before the Court took a serious view of the matter, it must satisfy itself that the men were aware of the character of the literature. Although the Police had described these pamphlets as dangerous and inflammatory, the Court must use its own judgment and say if the particular expressions complained of could be treated seriously or were to be looked upon as merely childish nonsense. The circulation of the pamphlet had been very limited, because the book contained a considerable amount of trash. The passages which the Police had had so carefully and elegantly translated would not inspire such fear that any serious notice would be taken of them. Counsel contended that though perhaps ignorant, his clients were straightforward and respectable men, and he asked that the charge against them be dismissed.

On behalf of Zun-Keh-foh, Mr. Ahlo said that the prosecution had shown no responsibility or ownership on the part of his client in connection with the printing office in Sinza. Was it reasonable to suppose that the proprietor of the printing office would be doing the work of a coolie? The defendant's position was that of a shroff. The partnership agreement and bill of sale executed by the former and present owners had been produced and verified, and there being no evidence to contradict it, it was plain that the defendant had no interest whatever in the printing business. According to the bill of sale, the former owner was the independent grantor and was recognised as such by the purchasers. It was therefore evident that the defendant was not in any way connected with the business. Several respectable firms had stated that they knew the defendant as the shroff employed at the printing establishment, and that he was also acting as shroff to their own firms. A servant was not liable for the acts of his master over which he had no control, directly or indirectly. The defendant had no more connection with the subject of the charge than had the steamship company whose boat brought

the books to Shanghai, or the coolies who conveyed the books from the steamer to the printing establishment. Counsel contended that there was no proof whatever against his client, and asked that the charge be dismissed.

Inspector McDowell said that Zun Keh-foh admitted that he took 500 copies of the book to Honan Road and received payment for them.

Mr. Ahlo pointed out that the carrying of the books was coolie work done for his employers, and he received payment on behalf of his employers in the capacity of shroff.

Judgment was reserved.

PASSENGERS.

OUTWARD.

Per str. CHOYSANG.—For Swatow—Messrs. W. Gallon and F. Wandres.

Per str. FUNGSHUN.—For Pagoda Anchorage—Mrs. Liu, Messrs. T. F. Cobbs and Idia.

Per str. HAEAN.—For Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Mrs. H. Smith, Messrs. Abramovitch, Richards, Wollenhagen, Sternberg, Min and Pok.

Per str. HSINCHI.—For Ningpo—Messrs. Debrunner, Schaefer, and Hesser.

Per str. PAOTING.—For Hongkong—Mr. Jensen.

Per str. KINLING.—For Wuhu—Mrs. Eedy. For Hankow—Mrs. Bernard Firth, Messrs. Basse and Posthorn.

INWARD.

Per str. WINGSANG.—From Japan—Mr. and Mrs. Miyashita, Messrs. M. Sudzuki, A. Ichikawa, W. E. Osborne, S. Matsumoto, S. Ichikawa, John, Seah, Ing Tsubing, Akiyoshi, T. Genmoto, and Ching Leang-lee.

Per str. TUCKWO.—From Hankow—Count Gallina, Messrs. H. P. Winslow, H. B. Emerson, and H. Ohaka.

Per str. MEIDAH.—From Hankow—Mr. Jacob.

Per str. HSINCHI.—From Ningpo—Messrs. Burgoyne and Chow.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer.		Wind.	Hygrometer.	Thermometer in Shade.		Initials.
	9 A.M.	Atmos. Therm.			Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	
Dec. 21	30.27	51.6	Calm.	0	35.9	35.9	51.1 31.8 o.v.
22	30.49	51.1	N.W.	5	35.3	31.3	38. 33.3 o.v.
23	30.57	49.8	W.N.W.	3	31.6	28.6	27.6 25.0
24	30.37	48.9	S.W. by W.	2	35.3	31.6	45.2 26.6 N.
25	30.45	48.9	W.	2	36.2	33.6	47.5 23.5 N.
26	30.47	49.3	W.N.W.	1	39.2	35.8	51.3 24.6 N.
27	30.57	50.0	Calm.	0	40.5	35.8	51.6 24.5 N.W.

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty haze; o. overcast dull; r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12 estimated.

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CURES

CONSTIPATION,
PAINS AFTER EATING,
FULNESS AT THE CHEST,
NERVOUS DEPRESSION,
BILIOUSNESS,

Nearly all our minor ailments and many dangerous diseases have their origin in some disorder of the stomach, liver and kidneys, affecting the vital processes of digestion and nutrition. In health, the daily expenditure of vital force is replenished by the digestion of food, but when digestion fails, as in dyspepsia and indigestion, the sources of bodily repair are cut off and every organ of the body is starved and poisoned. To be strong and healthy, maintain a good digestion by taking Mother Seigel's Syrup daily after meals. As a digestive tonic and stomachic remedy it has no equal. It clears the head, braces the nerves, tones the liver, assists digestion and helps you to gain strength from food—the only way it can be gained.

THE WORLD'S REMEDY

"For fifteen years I suffered from kidney and liver troubles which left me a mere shadow of my former self," writes Mrs. Amelia Le Roux, Short Street, North End, East London, Cape Colony, on June 22nd, 1904. "I lost my appetite and could not sleep at nights. I was also attacked by dizziness, which made me feel quite faint. Constipation was one of my chief troubles. Doctors were called in to attend me, but I only derived relief from their treatment for a short while. At last I heard of your Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup and I was not backward in purchasing a supply which cured me, and now at sixty-eight years I can do as much work as any person twenty years younger."

CLEANS THE LIVER,
PURIFIES THE BLOOD,
SHARPENS THE APPETITE,
BRACES THE NERVES,
INVIGORATES THE SYSTEM,
ASSISTS DIGESTION.

FOR INDIGESTION.

I. M. Customs returns of Shipments.

COWHIDES.	BUFFALO HIDES.	GOATSKINS UNTANNED.	ANIMAL TALLOW.	VEGETABLE TALLOW.	NUTSALLS.	BRISTLES.	SHEAUM SEED.	WOOD OIL.
Piculs.	Piculs.	Pieces.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
139,821.00 2,870.00	25,919.00 144.00	2,534,443 66,383	14,840.00 2,660.00	180,407.00 4,837.00	36,378.00 246.00	9,756.00 —	574,819.00 11,605.00	385,311.00 6,847.00
142,391.00	26,063.00	2,601,288	17,500.00	185,244.00	36,624.00	9,756.00	586,234.00	402,158.00

Raw Cotton, (Pressed Bales)..... Piculs 1,682

" (Original Bales unpressed)..... " 669

Per last Circular. For week ending Saturday, the 17th inst. From January 1st to 17th inst.

KEROSENE.

Quotations.—Ex Godown—American "Devoes" in cases.....	Tls. 2.05
" " "Eagle" in tins.....	" 1.75
" " "Eagle" in bulk.....	" 1.45
Russian "Anchor" in cases.....	" 1.87 Less 2%.
Russian "Horse" in cases.....	" 1.83
Sumatra bulk in tins.....	" 1.76
" in bulk.....	" 1.46

IMPORTS.

During the week ending Saturday the 3rd instant inclusive, as per Custom House returns are:—

American.....	250,100	Gallons.
Russian.....	—	"
Sumatra.....	—	"

Total... 250,100 "

FREIGHTS:—

Per Conference Steamers to London and Northern Continental ports;	
Via Shanghai.....	46/- " plus River Freight.
Per Conference Steamers to Genoa, Marseille or Havre;	
Via Shanghai. Tea and General Cargo.....	41/6 " " "
To New York. Overland.....	Tea G. & 1 1/2 cents per lb. gross " "
do. via Suez, Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton.	
To Shanghai; Tea and General Cargo Tols 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.	

SHIPPING IN HARBOUR AND AT WOOSUNG

MERCHANT STEAMERS.

No. & Soc.	Ship's Name	Commander.	Flag & Rig.	Tonnage	Date of Arrival	Where from	Consignees or Agents	Destination	Remark
ON W	Changon	George	Br str	1289	Dec 27	Hankow	Geddes & Co	Hankow & Ports	To-day
ON W	Chingping	Harvey	Br str	1062	Dec 27	Chinwangtao	Chinese Eng. & Min'g Co		
7 d	Chinkiang	Robertson	Br str	1229	Dec 15	Swatow	Butterfield & Swire		
SHW	Choytsang	Roope	Br str	1424	Dec 26	Hongkong	Jardine Matheson & Co	S'tow, Hkg, C'ton	To-day
LS	Dundas	Cate	Br str	1954	Dec 16	Tsingtau	Arnhold, Karberg & Co	Quam	To-day
LS	Fortuna	Fruyon	Nor str	1902	Dec 19	Chefoo	Standard Oil Co		
KLYW	Fangshan	Gillespie	Ch str	831	Dec 28	Amoy	C. M. S. N. Co.	Foochow	To-day
KLYW	Hacan	Wallace	Chi str	837	Dec 28	Foochow	C. M. S. N. Co.	Chefoo	To-day
PWE	Henry Balckow	Larsen	Nor str	639	Dec 24	Hongkong	Wheelock & Co		
BND	Haiyu	Richards	Chi str	1014	Dec 21	Foochow	C. M. S. N. Co.		
BJ	Kalgan	Epoed	Br str	1143	Dec 13	K'ow, C'foo, T'sin	Butterfield & Swire	C'kiang & Wuhu	To-day
KLYW	Kiangkwan	Lindstrom	Chi str	1450	Dec 28	Hankow	C. M. S. N. Co.	Hankow & Ports	To-day
CMB3	Kungping	Boyd	Chi str	1742	Dec 21	Tangku & Chefoo	C. M. S. N. Co.		
KLYW	Kwangchi	Gordon	Chi str	350	Dec 28	hefoo	C. M. S. N. Co.	Chinkiang	To-day
CMB1	Kwangtee	Lincoln	Chi str	1458	Dec 18	Hongkong	C. M. S. N. Co.		
CMEW	Lisa	Horndahl	Swed str	1216	Dec 27	apan	Moller Brothers		
CNCW	Loongmoon	Kalkofen	Ger str	1245	Dec 25	Hongkong	Siemssen & Co	Hongkong & C'ton	To-day
SOCW	Meisan	Barlow	Am str	461	Dec 22	Hankow	Standard Oil Co	Hankow	To-day
AUS	Meiyu	Riese	Ger str	1001	Nov 27	Hankow	Melchers & Co	Chemulpo	1st proximo
OSNB2	Melita	Prevot	Fr str	200	Dec 28	Chemulpo	Siemssen & Co		
MOXW	Mondal	Erksen	Nor str	1148	Dec 25	Singapore	Moller Brothers		
8 e	Pacific	Swenson	Dan str	728	Nov 29	Cruise	G. N. Tel. Co		
9 p	Peehili		Chi str	881	Dec 8	Swatow	W. Holliday & Co	Whaiwei & C'foo	To-day
NSOCW	Ras Issa	Parrot	Br str	2442	Dec 16	Sabang	Standard Oil Co	New York.	20th proximo
TKOW	Samshui		Br str	162	Feb 5	Wuhu	S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co		
NSOCW	Satsuma	Hodgao	Br str	2680	Dec 27	Hongkong	Dudwell & Co., Ltd.		
NMTW	Siam	Binn	Br str	922	Dec 24	Swatow	Geo. McBain		
BJ	Singan	Jamieson	Br str	1064	Dec 15	Chefoo	Butterfield & Swire		
8 e	Store Nordiske	Petersen	Dan str	596	Nov 27	Cruise	G. N. Tel. Co	Cruise	To-day
OSKW	Taochi Maru	Onishi	Jap str	1287	Dec 27	Hankow	Osaka Shosen Kaisha	Hankow & Ports	To-day
OD	Tahung Maru		Jan str	1391	Feb 5	Hankow	Osaka Shosen Kaisha		
Cos D	Taishun	Jamieson	Chi str	1216	Nov 29	Chefoo	C. M. S. N. Co.		
OSKW	Taloe Maru	Yabina	Jap str	1315	Dec 24	Hankow	Osaka Shosen Kaisha		
9 p	Tellus	Arntzen	Nor str	1612	Nov 25	Mororan	Snethlaga & Co		
ON W	Verwaerts	Schnemann	Ger str	645	Dec 27	Kiaochow	Melchers & Co	Tsingtau & C'ton	1st instant
CNFW	Wenchow	Pakett	Br str	560	Dec 12	Amoy	Butterfield & Swire		
PWE	Wilhelmina	Wolkammer	Dut str	2	Dec 2	Madivostek	Dedwell & Co., Ltd		
HW	Wesang	Malkin	Br str	1127	Dec 28	Hongkong	Jardine, Matheson & Co	C'kiang & Wuhu	To-day
SHW	Yuenwo	Flagg	Br str	1331	Dec 28	Hankow	Jardine, Matheson & Co	Hankow & Ports	To-day
30 Steamers									
LS	Brates		US trans		Dec 8	Hongkong			



A Christmas Song.

PRELUDE.

The stars are hid ; the Christmas bells
Ring muffled by the down that swells
 This sleeping combe around ;
I mount the hill ; the clouds uplift ;
The stars come sailing through the rift ;
 The winds are filled with sound.

Fierce blasts of doubt, and sweep of time
Would hush Salvation's song sublime
 That down the ages rings ;
I mount Faith's soaring heights, and lo !
Bethlehem's dark hills are all aglow
 With light on angels' wings.

A CHRISTMAS SONG.

Ὕμνος τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable Gift."

I

Voices of earth and sky and sea !
God's gifts of sound, melodious, strong, and free !
Let us give thanks as they come sweeping by ;
The roar of breaking waves ; the sand's long shivering sigh !
Rustle of leaves as breath of morning stirs ;
Call of the sea high up in humming firs ;
The thrush's soaring song on March winds borne ;
The voice of summer breeze through waving corn ;
On April days the first deep thunder moan ;
Pure voice and sweet of maid ; and man's in fuller tone ;
Music of organ, harp, and violin ;
The heart's vibrations as they ring within ;
Thanks for these gifts ; but greater for the song
Of angel quiring hosts, so clear, so long ;
Echoing to-day of Glory, Peace, Goodwill !
Though when the song was done they homeward soar'd ;
Thanks for that Infant voice in the dark manger still ;
And Mary's lullaby heard on Bethlehem's hill ;
Welcome Blest Baby mine ! my Saviour, Christ the Lord !

II

Thanks for the splendour of the throbbing skies ;
For evening-glow, and dawn's fair opening eyes ;
The "balanced" cloud-drift down the south-west gale,
Or when in rosy dreams on sunset skies they sail ;
The "influence sweet" of "tangled" Pleiads seven ;
The Plough's long trackless furrows round the Northern heaven ;
The blaze undimmed of Sirius' fleeting fire ;
The heavenly stream of worlds, like silver tire ;
Broad filmy girdle of the circling blue ;
For Hesper's lucid ray ; and Phosphor's rising true ;
The moon that walks in beauty ; and the sun
With swift upspringing glance, and smile when day is done ;
Seven-lusted Bow i' the cloud when ends the day of rain,
Swift bent by Hand Divine ; then wrapp'd in blue again.
Thanks be to God ! but more for that low Star
Stooped from the height to guide the Eastern sages far ;
(That true historic beam, that shamed the sight
Of legend's vagrant wisps of false-aimed light !)
Thanks let us raise, as they with gifts outpour'd,
To Thee, Blest King of Kings, our Saviour, Christ the Lord !

III

Thanks for earth's verdure ; and the gift of flowers,
 The valleys thick with corn, the calm of summer hours ;
 For primrose sunshine through the dark wood's glade ;
 For crown of cowslip's nodding gold on high downs laid ;
 Sweet breath where violets blue and white in secret blow ;
 Fillet of gentian azure round the Alp's great dome of snow ;
 Midsummer gardens' perfume ; rose and mignonette ;
 And honeysuckle country lanes with dew of morning wet ;
 Tall rhododendrons blush on high Himâlāyan head !
 China's ten thousand hills, azalea-carpeted !
 Green velvet turf, with echoes of the noble game ;
 All things so beautiful our thanks and praises claim !
 Yet choose we rather from earth's floral board,
 The flowers of Palestine ; the lilies fair and sweet,
 Gladiolus, anemone, that kissed their Maker's feet :
 Their Limner come to earth ; our Saviour, Christ the Lord !

IV

Thanks for the gift of mind and thought and speech ;
 For Reason's ordered court ; and Fancy's eager reach ;
 For master-spirits' lore, philosophy and song ;
 For wakening science ; for " Art's labour long ;"
 The painter's living lines ; the sculptor's breathing stone ;
 Men's spiritual upward gaze to God alone !
 For human friendship's converse ; and Faith's stronger band ;
 For thrill of hope of higher things through all the land !
 For " works and days " of toil ; and patriot's noble life
 For king and country lived through storm and strife ;
 Thanks for the laughter and the love of home ;
 Thanks, now supreme ! The Lord of Life has come !
 In whom all treasures of all wisdom dwell ;
 Through whom light, music, and all beauty well
 In overflowing gifts of bounteous store :
 Born, loving, dying, risen ;—for evermore
 Living ; and by the Eternal Spirit's grace
 Leading us home to Heaven's broad " wealthy place."
 Thanks for this gift unspeakable we raise ;
 And not with hollow sound, or inharmonious praise ;
 But with lives pure and strong, unselfish let us go,
 To brighten desolate hearts, and homes of want and woe ;
 And strike of th' Eternal Song the first glad chord
 Which rings around Thy Throne, Emmanuel, Christ the Lord !

ARTHUR E. MOULE.

CHRISTMAS 1904.